

Document made available under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

International application number: PCT/US05/025658

International filing date: 19 July 2005 (19.07.2005)

Document type: Certified copy of priority document

Document details: Country/Office: US
Number: 10/959,531
Filing date: 05 October 2004 (05.10.2004)

Date of receipt at the International Bureau: 12 September 2005 (12.09.2005)

Remark: Priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b)



World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) - Geneva, Switzerland
Organisation Mondiale de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OMPI) - Genève, Suisse

1362090

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

August 28, 2005

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT ANNEXED HERETO IS A TRUE COPY FROM THE RECORDS OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE OF THOSE PAPERS OF THE BELOW IDENTIFIED PATENT APPLICATION THAT MET THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE GRANTED A FILING DATE.

APPLICATION NUMBER: *10/959,531*

FILING DATE: *October 05, 2004*

RELATED PCT APPLICATION NUMBER: *PCT/US05/25658*



Certified by

Under Secretary of Commerce
for Intellectual Property
and Director of the United States
Patent and Trademark Office

**UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Small Entity)***(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))*Docket No.
COBR-10089

Total Pages in this Submission

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTSP.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) and 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) is a new utility patent application for an invention entitled:

Pavlov, Michael

and invented by:

**BARBED TAPE PRODUCT WITH A PREDETERMINED PATTERN OF ATTACHMENT POINTS AND
ATTACHMENT ELEMENTS**If a **CONTINUATION APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: _____

Which is a:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: _____

Which is a:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: _____

Enclosed are:

Application Elements

1. ☒ Filing fee as calculated and transmitted as described below
2. ☒ Specification having 34 pages and including the following:
 - a. ☒ Descriptive Title of the Invention
 - b. ☐ Cross References to Related Applications *(if applicable)*
 - c. ☐ Statement Regarding Federally-sponsored Research/Development *(if applicable)*
 - d. ☐ Reference to Sequence Listing, a Table, or a Computer Program Listing Appendix
 - e. ☒ Background of the Invention
 - f. ☒ Brief Summary of the Invention
 - g. ☒ Brief Description of the Drawings *(if filed)*
 - h. ☒ Detailed Description
 - i. ☒ Claim(s) as Classified Below
 - j. ☒ Abstract of the Disclosure

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Small Entity)

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No.
COBR-10089

Total Pages in this Submission

Application Elements (Continued)

3. ☒ Drawing(s) *(when necessary as prescribed by 35 USC 113)*
- a. ☐ Formal Number of Sheets _____
- b. ☒ Informal Number of Sheets 12
4. ☒ Oath or Declaration
- a. ☐ Newly executed *(original or copy)* ☒ Unexecuted
- b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) *(for continuation/divisional application only)*
- c. ☒ With Power of Attorney ☐ Without Power of Attorney
- d. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application,
see 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. ☐ Incorporation By Reference *(usable if Box 4b is checked)*
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under
Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby
incorporated by reference therein.
6. ☐ CD ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix)
7. ☐ Application Data Sheet (See 37 CFR 1.76)
8. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission *(if applicable, all must be included)*
- a. ☐ Computer Readable Form (CFR)
- b. ☐ Specification Sequence Listing on:
- i. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
- ii. ☐ Paper
- c. ☐ Statement(s) Verifying Identical Paper and Computer Readable Copy

Accompanying Application Parts

9. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
10. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(B) Statement (when there is an assignee)
11. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
12. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
13. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
14. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized)
15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)
16. ☒ Certificate of Mailing
- ☐ First Class ☒ Express Mail (Specify Label No.): EV 529650160 US

**UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Small Entity)**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No.
COBR-10089

Total Pages in this Submission

Accompanying Application Parts (Continued)

17. ☒ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27:
☐ (Optional) Small Entity Statement(s) - Specify Number of Statements Submitted: _____

18. ☐ Additional Enclosures (*please identify below*):

Request That Application Not Be Published Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)

19. ☒ Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2), Applicant hereby requests that this patent application not be published pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(1). Applicant hereby certifies that the invention disclosed in this application has not and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication of applications 18 months after filing of the application.

Warning

An applicant who makes a request not to publish, but who subsequently files in a foreign country or under a multilateral international agreement specified in 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i), must notify the Director of such filing not later than 45 days after the date of the filing of such foreign or international application. A failure of the applicant to provide such notice within the prescribed period shall result in the application being regarded as abandoned, unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay in submitting the notice was unintentional.

7621 U.S. PTO

**UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Small Entity)***(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))*Docket No.
COBR-10089

Total Pages in this Submission

Fee Calculation and Transmittal**CLAIMS AS FILED**

For	#Filed	#Allowed	#Extra	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	23	- 20 =	3	x \$9.00	\$27.00
Indep. Claims	3	- 3 =	0	x \$44.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
BASIC FEE					\$395.00
OTHER FEE (specify purpose) _____					\$0.00
TOTAL FILING FEE					\$422.00

- ☒ A check in the amount of \$422.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 19-0513 as described below.
- ☐ Charge the amount of _____ as filing fee.
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17.
- ☐ Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

Dated: October 5, 2004

Customer Number: 23123

cc:


Signature

David E. Allred, Reg. No.: 47,254
SCHMEISER, OLSEN & WATTS LLP
18 E. University Dr., #101
Mesa, AZ 85201
480-655-0073

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" (37 CFR 1.10)

Applicants: Pavlov

Docket No.: COBR-10089

Serial No.:

Filing Date:

Examiner:

Group Art Unit:

Title: BARBED TAPE PRODUCT WITH A PREDETERMINED PATTERN OF ATTACHMENT POINTS AND ATTACHMENT ELEMENTS

I hereby certify that the following:

1. Transmittal form;
2. Unexecuted Declaration and Power of Attorney;
3. 34 pages of Specification with 12 sheets of drawings
4. Prescribed Filing Fee of \$422.00; and
5. Postcard.

are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 5, 2004.

~~Gina Thomas~~ DAVID ALRED
(Type or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence)


(Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence)

EV 529650160 US
("Express Mail" Mailing Label Number)

**APPLICATION FOR
UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT**

**BARBED TAPE PRODUCT WITH A
PREDETERMINED PATTERN OF
ATTACHMENT POINTS AND
ATTACHMENT ELEMENTS**

Inventor

Michael V. Pavlov

**SCHMEISER, OLSEN & WATTS
18 E. University Drive, Ste. 101
(480) 655-0073
www.IPLawUSA.com**

Filed _____

BARBED TAPE PRODUCT WITH A PREDETERMINED PATTERN OF ATTACHMENT POINTS AND ATTACHMENT ELEMENTS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Technical Field

5 This invention generally relates to a barbed tape product, and more particularly to a barbed tape product having a predetermined pattern of attachment points.

2. State of the Art

Barbed tape products are known. Much of the process of making such products has been automated. For example, forming the barbs from a stock tape material has been automated. Also, placement of a reinforcing wire within a channel formed in the tape has been automated. Bending of the barbed tape product into round coils is also part of known production processes. However, automatically and efficiently clipping adjacent strands of barbed tape product together has been virtually unsuccessful. Accordingly, most manufacturers rely upon manually attaching adjacent strands of the product in a concertina or other pattern. Most concertina products have three attachment elements for every two winds (or loops) of the product strand. These elements are generally placed at equally spaced circumferential positions along the product strand. Known barbed tape concertina products seldom purposely depart from this pattern except for between rolls when attaching is suspended, the strand is severed, and the machine is re-threaded for a subsequent roll of product.

20 Attachment elements such as generally U-shaped clips with arms that extend from a base and surround a pair of strands are known. In these clips, the arms interleave with each other in an attached configuration. These clips are attached with a clip gun that is typically

actuated by a human operator. For convenience, multiple clips are held together in a string by a pair of filaments. The string of clips is fed into the clip gun so that the clip gun may be actuated repeatedly.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a barbed tape product having a predetermined pattern of attachment points and attachment elements. The predetermined pattern of attachment points is programmed into an electronic controller of a system for automatically producing a concertina or other barbed tape product. This system may include the automation applied on past devices.

5 However, the system also advantageously provides automated positioning of attachment points and automated attachment by attachment elements. The system provides a high degree of accuracy wherein the attachment points and the attachment elements may be placed in the predetermined pattern with few if any misplaced attachments. This system and associated methods are the subject of a U. S. Patent Application by the same Applicant as this

10 Application, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR FORMING BARBED TAPE PRODUCT", filed ^{October 5}~~April~~, 2004, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. DEA

While barbed tape products of the past have generally been limited to the standard repeating patterns described above, the present invention is not limited in the same way.

15 Rather, any pattern may be programmed into the electronic controller and the product may be made accordingly. One aspect of the invention that is believed to be advantageous in reducing misplaced attachments involves circumferentially offsetting attachment points on one cycle of the product relative to an adjacent cycle. For concertina products, this translates into offsetting the attachment points of one pair of loops of the product relative to the attachment points on an

20 adjacent pair of loops. This, together with other aspects of the invention, has enabled automatic clipping by a clipping gun integrated into the system with few if any misclips. Another aspect that facilitates automation of the clipping process involves providing modified attachment elements or clips. Certain standard clips are available on the market. These clips are configured to be used with pairs of strands of a particular size. However, these clips require a

25 great deal of accuracy in placement of the clipping gun relative to the strands in order to avoid

misclipping. Hence, clips that cover larger areas than the standard clips available on the market have been developed. These clips are manufactured with certain strengthening processes that have been implemented in the production of the clips of the present invention. Hence, providing the strengthening and increasing the area covered by the clips provide advantages that were not previously enjoyed in the industry. The resulting products will be described in simple terms in the paragraphs that follow.

In one aspect, the invention may include a strand of the product in the form of a continuous helical coil. The strand of product may include at least a first pair of loops and a second pair of loops. A first attachment element may hold the first pair of loops together. A second attachment element may hold the second pair of loops together. The first attachment element may be circumferentially offset relative to the second attachment element.

The first and second pairs of loops may be adjacent pairs of loops. At least one additional attachment element may be provided on the strand in a helically progressive position between the first attachment element and the second attachment element. The at least one additional attachment element may hold the first and second pairs of loops together. In particular, a plurality of additional attachment elements may be provided on the strand in helically progressive positions between the first and second attachment elements.

The strand of the product may further include additional pairs of loops and additional attachment elements holding the loops of each pair together and holding the pairs of loops together. The attachment elements may be generally positioned on one pair of loops so that each attachment element is circumferentially offset relative to all other attachment elements on an adjacent pair of loops.

In another aspect, a barbed tape product may include a strand of the product in the form of a continuous helical coil with a first attachment configuration including at least a first

attachment point on the strand. A second attachment configuration may including at least a second attachment point on the strand. The first and second configurations may correspond to respective first and second lengths of the strand that each extend through an arc of approximately 360 degrees or more. The first attachment point may be circumferentially offset
5 relative to all second attachment points in the second length, including the second attachment point.

The barbed tape product may have a first fastener or attachment at the first attachment point and a second fastener or attachment at the second attachment point. The first and second fasteners or attachments attach the first length to the second length of the strand and the first
10 and second lengths form adjacent first and second loops of the strand corresponding to respective first and second adjacent cycles.

The first attachment configuration may include a plurality of first attachment points including the first attachment point. The second attachment configuration may include a plurality of second attachment points including the second attachment point. Each of the plurality of first
15 attachment points may be circumferentially offset relative to each of the plurality of second attachment points. The barbed tape product may include a plurality of first fasteners or attachments at the plurality of first attachment points and a plurality of second fasteners or attachments at the plurality of second attachment points. For a concertina product, the plurality of first attachments and the plurality of second attachments attach first and second pairs of
20 loops comprising adjacent lengths of the strand together. The first and second pairs of loops correspond to respective first and second adjacent cycles and have a helically progressive pattern of attachment points forming a barbed tape concertina product. For a non-concertina product, the plurality of first attachments and the plurality of second attachments may attach first and second adjacent lengths comprising adjacent first and second loops of the strand together.
25 In this case, the first and second lengths may correspond to respective first and second adjacent cycles in a helically progressive pattern forming a non-concertina barbed tape product.

The attachment elements may be positioned in a predetermined pattern on the strand forming the continuous coil. The pattern may be a repeating pattern and provide a predetermined natural configuration of the product when the product is stretched out in a deployed state of use. For example, the pattern may provide a donut or a ball configuration when the product is stretched out in a deployed state of use.

In another aspect, the invention may include one or more attachment elements for holding two adjacent strands of barbed tape concertina product together. The attachment element may include a generally U-shaped staple structure having a central base and a plurality of arms extending from opposite ends of the base in a common direction transverse to the base. The base may have a length between the ends of approximately $\frac{.410 \text{ inches}}{\wedge} \pm .0325$ or $\frac{.410 \text{ inches}}{\wedge} \pm .00$ or $\frac{.410 \text{ inches}}{\wedge} \pm .00$ inches.

The one or more attachment elements may include one arm supported on one end of the base and a pair of arms supported on the other end of the base for an interleaved configuration when attaching two loops of the strand together. A distance between the one arm and the pair of arms may be approximately $\frac{.290 \text{ inches}}{\wedge} \pm .0325$ or $\frac{.290 \text{ inches}}{\wedge} \pm .010$ or $\frac{.290 \text{ inches}}{\wedge} \pm .00$ to generally match the length of the base.

In still another aspect, the one or more attachment elements may include a plurality of like attachment elements. The attachment elements may further include one or more slits extending from end to end in the base of each attachment element. In one case, the slits may be a pair of slits. A filament may be held in each of the slits. The filament that is held in each of first slits may be a first common filament and may hold the attachment elements together with the first slits of each attachment element aligned with each other. The filament that is held in each of second slits may be a second common filament and may hold the attachment elements together with the second slits of each attachment element aligned with each other. Each of the first and the second common filaments may comprise a nylon material and may be held in

respective first and second slits by a compression fit. It is to be appreciated that a single slit and a single filament in the slit may be used in the same way as a plurality of slits and elements.

A material of the attachment element proximate the slits may be work hardened so that the one or more attachment elements may have a strength greater than or equal to a strength of
5 an attachment element without slits. This work hardening effect may be provided by a variety of different processes including, but not limited to, a punching process during formation of the slits, by a crimping step when forming the compression fit, or by both.

The foregoing and other features and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following more detailed description of the particular embodiments of the
10 invention, as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a diagrammatic view of a system in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 2A is a diagrammatic side view of a segment of product having a standard concertina configuration;

5 FIG. 2B is a diagrammatic side view of a modified concertina configuration in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a diagrammatic perspective view of a helically coiled barbed tape product depicting attachment points required to achieve the concertina product of Figure 2B;

10 FIG. 4 is a diagrammatic perspective view of the segment of Figure 3 in a contracted and clipped state;

FIG. 5A is a diagrammatic perspective view showing how the pattern of attachment points can be varied from one roll to another;

FIG. 5B is a diagrammatic perspective view showing how the pattern of attachment points can be varied within one roll;

15 FIG. 6A is a diagrammatic view of the take up reel showing several devices supported thereon;

FIG. 6B is a perspective view of a non-concertina barbed tape product having objects attached at various circumferential positions in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 7A is a diagrammatic view of a particular segment of product in its natural stretched out or deployed state;

FIG. 7B is a diagrammatic view of a segment of concertina product configured to generally form a ball in a deployed state;

5 FIGS. 8A and 8B are tables of an exemplary attaching sequence in accordance with a predetermined pattern that may be programmed into an electronic controller in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 9A is a perspective view of an attachment element;

FIG. 9B is a side view of an attachment element clipped onto a pair of product strands;

10 FIG. 9C is a bottom view taken in a direction of arrow 9C of Figure 9B;

FIG. 9D is a top view of a plurality of attachment elements in a clipped configuration on a respective plurality of pairs of product loops;

FIG. 9E is a top view of a string of attachment elements held together by common filaments;

15 FIG. 9F is a side view of a string of attachment elements connected together by a pair of common filaments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

As discussed above, embodiments of the present invention relate to a system and methods of forming a barbed tape product, and are directed more particularly to the product formed by the system and methods. For example, Figure 1 is a diagrammatic view of a machine or system of machines 30 for forming a barbed tape product in accordance with the present invention. As such, the system includes a spool 35 of tape 39 in the form a thin flat tape stock material. The spool 35 may be automatically turned by a motor 42. The tape 39 is guided through a shock absorbing portion of the system that includes guide rollers 43, 44, and 46. Then a feed device 50 moves the tape 39 into a blanking press 60. The blanking press 60 forms barbs on the tape 39. Thus, a barbed tape 63 is guided by idlers 72, 74, and 76 into a forming station 75 from a reel 79. In the forming station 75, a roll former 80 forms the barbed tape 63 at least partially around the wire 78 to form an integral barbed tape product. The barbed tape product is moved forward through the system into a radial bender 90. The radial bender 90 provides a continuous bend into the barbed tape product so that the barbed tape product is biased into coils. The coils are subsequently wound into rolls corresponding generally to the size of the coils for further processing, storage, shipping, and dispensing. Hence, as the barbed tape product leaves the radial bender 90 and the forming station 75, it does so as a radially bent single strand of barbed tape product 95.

This strand of barbed tape product 95 is received on a take up reel 99. The take up reel 99 may have a motorized product pulling paddle 102 for moving the strand of product 95 circumferentially around the take up reel 99. A clip gun 105 and an anvil 108 are disposed on radially opposite sides of product strands 95 on the take up reel 99. A string of interconnected clips 111 are fed into the clip gun 105 by a clip slip 114. The clip gun 105 is pneumatically, hydraulically, or otherwise powered to automatically and repeatedly clip adjacent strands 95 together in a predetermined pattern as will be described in greater detail below.

Advantageously, an electronic controller 117 is integrated with the system 30. The electronic controller 117 may be preprogrammed via a programming device 120. The

programming device 120 may remain connected to the electronic controller or may be removed once the electronic controller 117 has been programmed. As shown in Figure 1, the electronic controller is operatively connected to the various portions or machines within the system 30 in order to synchronize the operation of the various portions with each other. For example, the electronic controller may be operatively connected with the stock tape reel motor 42, the feed device 50, the blanking press 60, the forming station 75, the motorized paddle 102 of the take up reel 99, and the automatic clipping gun 105. Thus the system 30 can automatically form, coil, and attach adjacent loops of the product strand 95 under the control of the electronic controller 117.

Figure 2A is a diagrammatic side view of a deployed segment 130 of barbed tape product in a standard concertina configuration. As such, attachment points are formed generally along an odd number (in this case three) of axially extending and circumferentially spaced lines 133, 136, and 139. A first axially extending line 133 is disposed near a base of a deployed segment 130 of the product. A second axially extending line 136 is disposed generally at an upper rear position on the segment 130. A third line 139 is disposed in a generally forward and upward position on the segment 130. In a standard concertina configuration, the attachment points are generally equally circumferentially spaced from each other. In order to achieve the concertina configuration, the product strand 95 is attached to adjacent strands in the helical coil of the product 130 in a predetermined manner. Specifically, the strand 95 is attached to itself at attachment points on lines 133, 136 and 139 in a helically progressive pattern as will be described below.

The segment 130 of Figure 2A is a right-handed helix to the right. Thus, the strand 95 progresses in a clockwise direction toward the right as viewed from the left. By numbering points on the strand 95, which form part of the attachment points, in a helically progressive manner, a helically progressive pattern of attachment can be recognized. Thus, starting at a point labeled 1 in Figure 2A and moving in a clockwise direction to the right the strand 95

reaches a second attachment point labeled 2 with a next rearwardly adjacent loop on line 133. Progressing in a clockwise direction from the point labeled 2 on the strand 95 to the point labeled 3, at which the strand 95 is connected to the next forwardly adjacent loop on line 136, starts a repeating pattern of attachment. The pattern in this case is that the strand 95 is attached
5 to a next rear adjacent loop at a third of the distance around the circumference and then attached to a next forwardly adjacent loop after another third of the distance around the circumference. After the third of travel in a clockwise direction a forth point on the strand 95 labeled 4 forms an attachment point with the next rearwardly adjacent point, which is also labeled 1. This pattern of attachment to alternating forward adjacent and rearward adjacent
10 portions of the strand 95 is repeated throughout the segment 130. The result is a product 130 that can be deployed in a concertina configuration. Since the attachment points lie generally on the equally spaced lines 133, 136 and 139, and the pattern is a consistently repeated pattern, the product 130 will naturally form a straight line configuration when deployed.

While the configuration shown in Figure 2A may be advantageously manufactured in
15 accordance with the present invention, and the predetermined pattern may be provided automatically under control of the electronic controller, the placement of the attachment points in Figure 2A may be located differently as described below with regard to Figures 2B through 6B below.

As shown in Figure 2B, lines 133, 136 and 139 correspond to those shown in Figure
20 2A labeled with the same numerals 133, 136, and 139. Sets of attachment points disposed generally on these lines 133, 136, and 139 are disposed generally equally spaced about the circumference of the segment. However, Figure 2B shows a segment 142 having a different configuration of attachment points. In this case, three additional lines are defined as offset lines 145, 148 and 151. The offset lines 145, 148 and 151 are offset from lines 133, 136 and 139
25 by a predetermined circumferential distance. Lines 133 and 145 form a first pair of lines 153 located generally at a bottom of segment 142. Lines 136 and 148 form a second pair of lines

155 located generally at an upper rear of the segment 142. A third pair of lines 157 provide a third pair of lines 139, 151 located generally at an upper front of the segment 142.

The helical aspect of the segment 142 in Figure 2B progresses in a clockwise direction to the right. As described with regard to Figure 2A above, the attachment pattern progresses
5 by the strand of product 95 being attached first to the next rearwardly adjacent loop and then to the next forwardly adjacent loop and so forth in a helically progressive manner. As shown in Figure 2B, one full loop is formed by the product strand 95 as it progresses from a point 1 on the strand 95 to a point 4 on the strand. As may be appreciated, all of points 1 through 4 are located on lines 133, 136, and 139, which are not offset. The next coil in the helically
10 progressive pattern is formed by the product strand as it progresses from the point 4 to the point 7 on the strand. However, it is to be noted that point 5 is located on offset line 145. Likewise, point 7 is located on offset line 151, and the second coil is just short of a completely circumferential coil of 360 degrees by the circumferential distance of the offset. A third coil is provided as the strand 95 of product progresses from point 7 to point 10. As may be
15 appreciated, the third coil is very similar in appearance to the first coil. However, each of points 7, 8, 9, and 10 are located generally on the offset lines 145, 148, and 151.

By following the same helically progressive pattern, the fourth coil transitions back to attachment points on the non-offset lines 133, 136 and 139. The result of this progressive pattern is that each subsequent attachment point on a given pair of lines 153, 155, 157 is offset
20 relative to the attachment point immediately previous thereto on that pair. This arrangement has important manufacturing benefits. In particular, offsetting the attachment points in this manner reduces or eliminates mis-clipping by a clipping gun such as that shown in Figure 1. This is due to the fact that the immediately previous clip on a pair of lines is not circumferentially aligned with the attachment point at which a subsequent clip is to be applied by the clipping gun.

With regard to Figures 2B and 3, it is to be understood that an attachment point on a first pair of product loops will be circumferentially offset relative to an attachment point of an adjacent second pair of loops that would have otherwise been circumferentially aligned in the standard concertina product. Furthermore, an attachment point of the first pair of loops will also be offset relative to every other attachment point of the adjacent second pair of product loops. This is somewhat challenging to see when the concertina product is stretched and deformed into its deployed configuration as shown in Figure 2B. However, it is more easily seen in the undeformed helical configuration shown in Figures 3 and 4.

Figures 3 and 4 provide alternative illustrations of how the offset attachment points are distributed on the segment 162, 165 in a non-deformed configuration. Segments 162 and 165 progress in counterclockwise directions to the right. However, the pattern of attachment is substantially similar to that shown and described with regard to Figure 2B above. For example, attachment point 1 on the product strand 95 is attached to the next forwardly adjacent loop at 4 as indicated by the straight line connecting 1 and 4 in Figure 3. Next, the strand 95 is connected to a rearwardly adjacent loop at point 2 on the strand. By following the strand helically forward to the right, it can be seen that a point 3 on the strand 95 is attached to the next forwardly adjacent loop at a point 6 on the strand. Then a point 4 on the strand 95 is connected to the next rearwardly adjacent loop at 1. Point 5 is connected to the next forwardly adjacent loop. Point 6 is attached to the next rearwardly adjacent loop. This pattern is implemented in a helically progressive pattern for a complete roll or the segment 162 thereof to provide the pattern of offsets shown by the stepped lines in Figure 3.

Figure 4 shows a resultant roll 165 of product in a rolled non-deployed state in accordance with the present invention. As shown, the clips 111 are circumferentially offset relative to each other from one pair of loops 167 to an adjacent pair of loops 169 in a particular circumferential region 171. As may be appreciated, the same is true for clips 111 attached to adjacent pairs of loops in each of the other circumferential regions 172 and 173 shown in

Figure 4. Alternatively described, each pair of loops has one or more attachment points in which first attachment points of a plurality of pairs of loops correspond to each other. In concertina products the number of attachment points for a pair of loops is regularly an odd number and is typically provided in a repeating pattern. In this way, a first attachment point of one pair of loops generally corresponds in position to first attachment points in the other pairs of loops, a second attachment point generally corresponds in position to second attachment points, and a third attachment point generally corresponds to third attachment points. As such, circumferential regions may be defined as regions corresponding in number to the number of attachment points per pair of loops. The circumferential extent of the regions may therefore be 360 degrees divided by the number of attachment points on a pair. The circumferential regions may include areas extending generally equal circumferential distances on each side of respective attachment points. However, when the attachment points of adjacent loops are offset relative to corresponding attachment points in adjacent pairs of loops, then the region may be defined as extending equal circumferential distances from an average circumferential position along a roll of the product.

Figure 5A shows rolls of product 174, 177, and 179, which may be produced by a system of the present invention. Each of the rolls 174, 177, and 179 have a corresponding set of attachment points. The set of attachment points is programmed into the electronic controller as described previously. These rolls 174, 177, and 179 may be produced in sequence. That is, the electronic controller may be programmed to produce one roll after another with the attachment point pattern varying from one roll to the other. Alternatively, the pattern may be the same for each roll. However, the pattern may be interrupted between rolls. As shown in Figure 5A, a length of the product strand 95 between the rolls may extend a predetermined distance without clipping by the system. The capability of the system to be preprogrammed in this manner enables continuous production without having to stop the machine for re-threading. As shown, attaching regions 181, 184, 187 may be evenly distributed circumferentially as shown on the roll 174. Regions 190, 193, and 196 may be distributed unevenly about the

circumference as shown on roll 177. Any odd number of regions of attachment points may be distributed about the circumference of a roll in order to achieve a concertina configuration. For example, five regions 200, 202, 204, 206, and 208 are shown on roll 179. The number and distribution of these regions shown in Figure 5A is exemplary only. It is to be understood that
5 any number of regions and any variation of positions for the regions is considered to be within the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Furthermore, as shown in Figure 5B, the pattern of the attachment points may be varied within a given roll. For example, a roll 210 has a first region 212 and a second region 214 which progress from positions on a rear portion of the roll 210 to positions on a front of the roll
10 in a helically progressive pattern to the right. It is to be understood, that the pattern programmed into the electronic controller and applied to a roll of product such as roll 210 determines the shape in which the product will naturally lie in a deployed state. For example, the right most portion of the roll 210 having attachment points of all 3 regions on the front of the roll 210 will tend to cause the roll to bend out of the page and to the right, as viewed, when the
15 roll is stretched out and placed in its deployed state.

With this in mind, it is to be understood that the electronic controller can be programmed to produce rolls that will provide donut shapes in their deployed states. Alternatively, a roll may be formed that curves first in one direction, then progresses through a straight portion, and then curves in the other direction to form an "S" shape. Thus, the product
20 could be made to form letters or even words in its deployed state. Such precision is made possible by the exactness with which the system of the present invention can be programmed to position attachment points. A more practical application for providing a precisely shaped or configured product may be that of matching the deployed product to a particular contour of a landscape or building structure. For example, product may be customized to extend in a line
25 across the ground, then bend to extend up a wall, and bend again to extend across an edge of a roof.

Figure 6A is a diagrammatic view of the take up reel 99 with a variety of devices that may be supported thereon for attaching objects to the barbed tape product of the present invention. Element 105 represents the clipping device 105 shown in Figure 1 and described above. Element 102 represents the motorized paddle 102 or index paddle described above.

5 The take up reel 99 may further have rollers 221 for aiding smooth rotation of the reel 99. A line attaching device 224 may be provided for attaching a line to the product at predetermined positions under software control. The line attaching device may attach a spacer line 227 to limit separation of selected ones of the loops from each other in the deployed state. A plurality of line attaching devices may be supported on the take up reel 99 at predetermined circumferential
10 positions around the coil of the product to form a generally uniform separation of loops of the strand on all sides of the coil when it is deployed. Alternatively, different spacing lengths of the spacer line 227 may be provided at different positions on the coil to provide a predetermined configuration of the coil in its deployed state.

Other devices may be selectively provided on the take up reel including a sensor line
15 attaching device 230 that may be supported at a generally radially inward position on the reel for attaching a sensor or other line 233 generally on an inside of the product strand. The other line 233 or the spacer line 227 may be one of a plurality of such lines that may include, but are not limited to, spacer lines, trip lines, and/or sensor lines. It is to be understood that the sensor lines may be of any type, including but not limited to magnetic or fiber optic lines. All of these
20 lines may incorporate any suitable material including, but not limited to, metals, plastics, or composites formed as wires, tapes, ribbons, cables, or ropes, for example. The reel 99 may also have a tab inserting device 236 supported thereon for attaching tabs or flags to the strand of product at predetermined positions.

As described above with regard to the attachment points and attachment elements 111,
25 the spacer lines, trip lines, sensor lines, and tabs may be attached at any predetermined positions on the product strand. Furthermore, it is to be understood that these positions may be

varied within a roll or unit 373, 385 of the product, or may be varied from one roll to another. As shown, a cut off device 239 may be provided separately from the attaching device for cutting the product at a predetermined position. Alternatively, the cut off device may be provided integrally with the attaching device 105. Furthermore, it is to be understood that one
5 or more of the line attaching devices 224, 230 could be provided integrally with the attaching device 105. In fact, any number of the attaching device 105 and the other devices may be integrated together as attachment mechanisms of an overall device or may be provided separately without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. It is also to be understood that any number of additional devices such as auxiliary device 240 may be provided
10 on the take up reel to treat the strands of product or attach additional objects in any manner desired to provide a variety of functions to the product. For example, motion sensors or microphones could be attached to the product at selected locations.

Figure 6B is a perspective view of a segment of barbed tape product 242 having an exemplary spacer line 227 attached to an exterior of the coil by line attachment elements 245.
15 These line attachment elements 245 may be the same as the attachment elements 111 described above and in greater detail below, or they may be attachment elements configured specifically for attaching lines. The attachment elements 111, 245 may function to both attach adjacent loops of the product together and to attach separate objects, including the spacer lines 227. Figure 6B shows the sensor line 233 held on an interior of the coil by attachment elements 248.
20 As may be appreciated, the spacer lines 227 and the other lines 233 may function as trip lines because they will cause the product to close in upon any intruder that engages the lines 227, 233. While shown in a relatively loose relation similar to hog rings in Figure 6B, the attachment elements 245, 248 may form a tight crimp on the product 242 in order to hold the lines or other objects to the strand of product at the predetermined positions. Furthermore, the lines 227,
25 230 may be fastened by other mechanisms including by structural elements integral with the lines 227, 230 themselves, for example. Still further, the line attaching devices 224, 230 may take a form other than that of clipping guns. Axially adjacent attachment elements among each

of elements 245 and 248 may be circumferentially offset relative to each other to facilitate automatic attachment under control of the electronic controller. It is to be understood that Figure 6B is exemplary only. It is expected that two to four spacer lines may also be attached to the product for holding the product in a uniformly distributed position in the deployed state.
5 Also, tabs or flags 251 may be attached to the product at predetermined intervals or selected positions.

The attachment of objects including spacer lines 227, 233 shown and described with regard to Figures 6A and 6B may be applied to concertina products as well as to non-concertina products. A method of making a barbed tape concertina product, for example, may
10 include attaching the spacer line at a position of every fifth clip. That is, the electronic controller could be configured to attach the spacer line 227 and then skip four clips and attach the spacer line 227 at the fifth clip. Alternatively, the product may be a non-concertina product and have the same spacing configuration. That is, with attachments at positions where every fifth clip would normally have been in a concertina product. Such an arrangement has great
15 material saving advantages while providing uniform spacing of the loops during deployment.

Furthermore, the concertina product formed with spacer lines 227 has the advantage of enabling a method of deploying that is very fast and simple in accordance with the disclosure of U.S. patent application serial No. __/_____, entitled Concertina Tape Products Configured for Stable Deployment and Retrieval, by the same inventor, filed October 5, 2004, U.S.
20 Provisional Patent Application serial No. 60/589,668, entitled RAPID DEPLOYMENT BARBED TAPE AND DISPENSER, by the same inventor, filed July 19, 2004 each of which are incorporated herein by reference. This method may entail fixing a first end of a roll on the ground or other structure to be protected. Then a truck or other vehicle carrying the rest of the roll may be driven along a path in which the product 242 is to be deployed. A slight tension
25 may be applied to the roll so that the product pays out at the same rate the vehicle moves away from the first end of the product until the roll is completely expanded into its deployed state.

Multiple rolls may be connected together and payed out in this manner. The rolls of the non-concertina product formed in the manner described above have a helical configuration, even in the expanded deployed state. Therefore, collection of the product may be advantageously accomplished by an auger that turns and pulls the product into a collection bin. As may be appreciated, such an auger provides great collection advantages since the product is otherwise difficult to handle and especially difficult to collect. Automation of such an auger has additional advantages of increased speed and power in collecting the barbed tape product 242.

Applications for such a barbed tape products are endless. However, in an age when mankind no longer wishes to put up with the horrors of land mines, the capability of configuring barbed tape products in accordance with the present invention may prove to be a highly desirable alternative for selectively protecting large or small areas in a customizable fashion in which the product itself is a deterrent from entry into the area. Unlike land mines, the product of the present invention can advantageously be seen and avoided. On the other hand, the barbed tape products of the present invention can be configured to slow or stop the progress of any person entering an area secured therewith.

Accordingly, Figure 7A is a diagrammatic view of a segment of product 220 in its natural stretched out or deployed state. As shown, the natural deployed state of the product segment 220 is in the form of a donut. As may be appreciated, such a configuration may be provided by a pattern of attachment points that are placed on one side of the product coils.

Figure 7B is a diagrammatic view of a segment 225 of barbed tape product configured to generally form a ball in a deployed state. As may be appreciated, the attachment points required to form a ball may be placed to generally form hoops, but which cause the product to bend out of a plane of each hoop and into a subsequent hoop plane so that the result is the ball configuration shown in Figure 7B, for example.

Figures 8A and 8B are tables showing an exemplary clipping sequence that may be programmed into the electronic controller in order to produce a barbed tape product of a particular configuration. The specific example shown in Figures 8A and 8B is for a ten loop coil with 5 clips per 720 degrees (pair of loops), and 26 clips total. The tables also include
5 indications of steps for suspending clipping for a predetermined number of intervals or counts between coils, for example. An interval or "count" as used herein is defined as the distance between adjacent sets of barbs along the product strand 95. The motorized paddle 102 may register the number of intervals during which clipping is suspended as well as registering the number of intervals between clipping at the predetermined attachment points. Therefore, the
10 motorized paddle may function as a counter and an index paddle to function as will be described below. Alternatively, a separate counter and/or index paddle may be provided.

In the table of Figure 8A, a first column 361 indicates a position in degrees at which clips are to be attached. A second column 364 indicates a distance at which the clips are attached in terms of intervals or counts along the product strand in each coil. A first row 367 of
15 the table indicates which loop is being clipped by sequential numbers of loops listed from left to right. The numbers in the body of the table of Figure 8A represent clip numbers in the sequence in which they are attached. The vertical lines 370 represent the loops of a strand of product and the lines encircling each of the clip numbers and intersecting pairs of loops represent attachment of the clips to respective loops of the strand. Thus, as shown in Figure
20 8A, clips 1 through 3 attach the first loop to the second loop. It is to be noted that the first clip is attached at a position designated at zero degrees and zero counts. In the particular sequence illustrated in Figures 8A and 8B, the sixth clip will also be located at zero degrees. However, when the sixth clip is attached, 115 intervals or counts of the strand will have passed through the clipping device subsequent to attachment of the first clip. As shown, the sequence of
25 clipping proceeds in a helically progressive pattern as described above, with sequential clips being attached every 144 degrees until a coil or unit 373 has been completed.

At the end of the coil or unit 373, the system skips attaching two sequential clips as indicated at 376 and 379. Then the machine is stopped and the strand of product is cut off at a position corresponding to break lines 382. With the machine stopped, the coil or unit 373 is pushed off the take up reel, a counter is reset, and the machine is started again. The steps of cutting off, pushing off, and resetting the counter each require an additional time. Accordingly, a separate "delta t" is programmed or otherwise implemented in the electronic controller to provide time for each of these steps between coils. No stopping is required along the strand at the positions where clipping is skipped so a cumulative "delta t" need not be large. Furthermore, a segment of approximately 8 counts may be provided in which the strand is cut. The segment may be greater or less than 8 counts, but provides a length of product that enables separating of adjacent loops therefrom in order to insert a clipping tool. The segment may be 10 or more counts, or may be as few as 2 to 4 counts. The segment shown in Figure 8A is 23 counts and aligns the attachment points of the first unit 373 with the attachment points of a second unit 385 for ease of illustration. The segment extends between clip number 26 (the last clip of the first unit 373) and clip number 1 of the second coil or unit 385. The cut will generally be made in a central portion of the segment leaving tails forming free ends 388 and 391 extending from respective clip numbers 26 and 1. Any number of clippings may be skipped and any length of segment for cutting the strand may be provided under electronic control. However, as shown, skipping attachment of at least two clips permits a clean break between the units 373 and 385 by a single cut.

Advantageously, the starting and ending point for a cycle 394, generally corresponding in length to a length of strand for a coil or unit 373, may be selected so as not to correspond to the cut off point. For example, a starting and ending point for the cycle 394 shown in Figures 8A and 8B is at clip number 9. In this way several loops of product strand are on the take up reel and threaded in the clipping device when the strand is cut between coils or units 373 and 385. At least a portion of these several loops remains threaded in the clipping device and fed onto the take up reel during and after cutting. Therefore, refeeding and rethreading the strand

for each coil or unit is not required. Furthermore, an index of the strand is preserved since the counter or index paddle is continuously engaged. On the other hand, if the starting and ending point is made to correspond to the cut off point, then the strand would have to be rethreaded through the clipping device and refeed onto the take up reel and index paddle. Such rethreading and refeeding requires down time for the machine and reduces efficiency. Furthermore,
5 continuous operation is difficult if not impossible. On the contrary, the clipping sequences of the present invention have the capability of preserving the index, permitting the steps of cut off, push off, and resetting the counter while remaining under the control of the electronic controller. It is contemplated that the cut off may be effectuated by the clipping machine. Alternatively, a
10 separate machine could perform the cut off step. Further alternatively, a human operator could manually clip during a time interval provided by the electronic controller.

Figure 8B is a table similar to the table of Figure 8A. However, the table of Figure 8B has the number of counts for a given coil at respective attachment points for units 373 and 385 indicated in the body of the table instead of the clip numbers. Thus, a running count for a coil or
15 unit goes from zero up to 1,288, after which the counter is reset to zero again. On the other hand, the electronic controller is set to a starting point for the cycle 394 when the count reaches 322 as indicated by a slash 397. Thus, the cut off and associated steps may be advantageously implemented at an intermediate point in the cycle 394 as described above.

While the tables of Figures 8A and 8B show the clips sequentially attached at evenly
20 spaced increments along the strand, it is to be understood that the attachment points can be varied to advantageously provide the offset of the clips from one pair of loops to another as has been described with respect to Figures 2A-7B above. This may be implemented with clipping and cut off sequences similar to those of Figures 8A and 8B. For example, instead of clipping after each subsequent 46 counts, the clipping sequence may implement clipping at alternating
25 intervals of 45 and 47 counts to achieve the advantages of offsetting the clips along axial lines of

a coil in addition to the advantages of the clipping and cut off sequences shown and described with regard to Figures 8A and 8B.

Figure 9A is a perspective view of the attachment element or clip 111. As shown, the clip 111 has a base 330 and a pair of arms 333, 335 extending from a first end 336 of the base and a single arm 339 extending from a second end 340 of the base 330. The clip 111 has a generally U-shaped configuration. This configuration is similar to a staple structure in which the arms 333, 335, and 339 extend transversely away from the base 330 to form the U-shaped configuration.

As shown in Figures 9B and 9C, the clip 111 may be placed in a generally embracing configuration around a pair of product strands 95. The clip 111 is then crimped onto the product strands 95 into an interleaved configuration as shown in Figure 9C. That is, the pair of legs 333 and 335 receive the single leg 339 therebetween. Advantageously, the clip 111 may be provided with slits 342 and 344 that receive respective filaments 336 and 348 therein. Additional details with regard to the slits and filaments will be described below.

Figure 9D is a top plan view of a plurality of clips 111 attaching strands 95 of adjacent loops together. As may be appreciated, Figure 9D is a cut away view showing only one region of attachment points of an overall coil of strand 95. As shown, an attachment point defined by an attachment element or clip 111 is offset relative to attachment points on adjacent pair of strands 95. The exception is in the exemplary view of Figure 9D is the upper two adjacent pairs of strands 95 in which the attachment points are aligned. Figures 9B through 9D effectively show how the system of the present invention accurately places the attachment elements 111 and avoids misclipping including placement of the attachment element or clip 111 on a barb, for example. Furthermore, as shown in Figure 9D, placement of an attachment element or clip 111 in surrounding relation to a pair of strands has the advantage of slightly separating the pair of strands from strands adjacent to the pair. Thus, the target for placement of

a subsequently placed clip is enlarged and an open space is provided for arm(s) on one side of the clip 111.

Figure 9E is a top plan view of multiple clips 111 in a string of clips 351. The string of clips 351 is held together by a pair of common filaments 346, 348. These filaments 346 and 348 are disposed in slits 342 and 344 respectively, and are common to all of the clips 111. The filaments 346 and 348 are held in the slits 342 and 344 by a compression fit. As shown in Figures 9D and 9E, this compression fit may be achieved by a crimping action that crimps outer side portions 353 and 355 inwardly to engage and compressively hold the filaments 346, 348 in the slits 342, 344. The filaments 346, 348 may be formed or comprised of a tough nylon material, for example. Thus, the clips 111 are held together by the filaments until they are separated during the manufacturing process.

It is to be noted that the inwardly crimping deformation of the outer sides 353 and 355 of the base 330 may provide a work hardening effect that strengthens these portions and the base 330 overall against subsequent bending. Furthermore, it is to be understood that a punching or stamping process for forming the slits 342 and 344 in the base 330 may also act to strengthen the material of the clips 111 surrounding the slits 342 and 344, by work hardening for example. Thus, the bases 330 of the clips 111 may be strengthened in longitudinally extending regions surrounding each of the slits 342 and 344. These strengthening effects were somewhat contraindicated since removal of material would typically be associated with a weakening of the region from which the material is removed.

Figure 9F is a side view of the string of clips 351. As shown in Figure 9F, the arms on opposite ends of the base 330 extend generally parallel to each other away from the base 330. The length dimension of the base 330 thus corresponds to a distance at which the arms at opposite ends of the clips 111 are spaced. This dimension 358 may be $.290 \pm .01$ inches, or $.290 \pm .01$ inches. These

Handwritten notes:
This dimension 359 may be $.410 \pm .0325$ inches, $.410 \pm .010$ inches, or $.410 \pm .010$ inches. A spacing dimension 358 may correspond to an inner spacing between inner surfaces of the arms.
maximum outer surfaces of
This dimension 359 may be $.410 \pm .0325$ inches, $.410 \pm .010$ inches, or $.410 \pm .010$ inches. A spacing dimension 358 may correspond to an inner spacing between inner surfaces of the arms.
This dimension 358 may be $.290 \pm .01$ inches, or $.290 \pm .01$ inches. These

dimensions are larger than those of clips available on the market at the time of this invention. In addition to the advantageous work hardening effect provided in the bases 330, it is to be understood that the bases have a generally rounded peak as opposed to a more flattened configuration in the clips of the past. This rounded peak configuration of the base has the advantages of _____.

While the invention has been set forth above in terms of the exemplary embodiments shown in the Figures, it is to be understood that many variations are possible without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. For example, it is to be understood that the slits 342 and 344 could be placed in the bases 330 at an orientation rotated by 90 degrees. Thus, the lengths of the slits 342 and 344 would extend in side to side directions as opposed to length directions with respect to the bases 330. The materials utilized for the product and the attachment elements may be varied without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. For example, the material for filaments 346 and 348 may be selectively varied. Configurations of the attachment elements may be changed without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. It is to be understood that any attachment element could be used in place of clips 111 shown and described above. Furthermore, the concepts of the present invention could be applied in other applications. For example, a predetermined pattern of attachment points could be applied in making bed springs.

Thus, it can be seen that the present product could be provided in alternative forms. For example, a barbed tape product may be formed of a tape without the reinforcing wire shown and described with regard to Figure 1. In such cases, providing attachment points in accordance with the details above can still be advantageously implemented.

The embodiments and examples set forth herein were presented in order to best explain the present invention and its practical application and to thereby enable those of ordinary skill in the art to make and use the invention. However, those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize

that the foregoing description and examples have been presented for the purposes of illustration and example only. The description as set forth is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise form disclosed. Many modifications and variations are possible in light of the teachings above without departing from the spirit and scope of the forthcoming claims.

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A barbed tape concertina product comprising:
 - 2 a strand of the product in the form of a continuous helical coil including at least a first
 - 3 pair of loops and a second pair of loops;
 - 4 a first attachment element at a first attachment point of the first pair of loops and holding
 - 5 the first pair of loops together; and
 - 6 a second attachment element at a first attachment point of the second pair of loops and
 - 7 holding the second pair of loops together;
 - 8 wherein the first attachment element is circumferentially offset relative to the second
 - 9 attachment element.
- 1 2. The barbed tape concertina product of claim 1, wherein the first and second pairs of
- 2 loops are adjacent pairs of loops.
- 1 3. The product of claim 2, further comprising at least one additional attachment element at
- 2 a second attachment point on the strand in a helically progressive position between the
- 3 first attachment element and the second attachment element, the at least one additional
- 4 attachment element holding the first and second pairs of loops together.

- 1 4. The product of claim 2, further comprising a plurality of additional attachment elements
2 at respective additional attachment points in helically progressive positions on the strand
3 between the first and second attachment elements.
- 1 5. The product of claim 4, wherein the continuous coil further comprises:
2
3 additional pairs of loops and additional attachment elements holding the loops of each
4 pair together and holding the pairs of loops together;
5
6 the attachment elements generally positioned on one pair of loops so that each
7 attachment element is circumferentially offset relative to all other attachment elements on
8 an adjacent pair of loops.
- 1 6. The product of claim 5, wherein the attachment elements are positioned in a
2 predetermined pattern on the continuous coil.
- 1 7. The product of claim 6, wherein the pattern is a repeating pattern.
- 1 8. The product of claim 6, wherein the pattern provides a predetermined natural
2 configuration of the product when the product is stretched out in a deployed state of
3 use.

1 9. The product of claim 8, wherein the pattern provides a donut configuration when the
2 product is stretched out in a deployed state of use.

1 10. The product of claim 8, wherein the pattern provides a ball configuration when the
2 product is stretched out in a deployed state of use.

3 11. One or more attachment elements for holding two adjacent strands of barbed tape
4 concertina product together, the attachment element comprising:

5 a generally U-shaped staple structure having a central base and a plurality of arms
6 extending from opposite ends of the base in a common direction transverse to the base;

7 wherein:

8 the base has a length between the ends of $.410 \pm .0325$ inches; and

9 a distance between the one arm and the pair of arms is $.290 \pm .0325$ inches.

1 12. The one or more attachment elements of claim 11, wherein the base has a length of
2 approximately .410 inches.

3 13. The one or more attachment elements of claim 11, wherein the distance between
4 the arm and the pair of arms is approximately .290 inches.

1 14. The one or more attachment elements of claim 11, wherein the attachment element
2 comprises one arm supported on one end of the base and a pair of arms supported on the other
3 end of the base for an interleaved configuration when attaching the strands.

4 15. The one or more attachment elements of claim 11, wherein the attachment element
5 is a first attachment element of a plurality of like attachment elements, the attachment elements
6 further comprising:

7 a pair of slits extending from end to end in the base of each attachment element; and

1 a filament held in each of the slits.

1 16. The one or more attachment elements of claim 15, wherein:

2 the filament held in each of first slits is a first common filament that holds the
3 attachment elements together with the first slits of each attachment element aligned with each
4 other; and

5 the filament held in each of second slits is a second common filament that holds the
6 attachment elements together with the second slits of each attachment element aligned with each
7 other.

1 17. The one or more attachment elements of claim 16, wherein:

2 each of the first and second common filaments comprises a nylon material; and

3 the common filaments are held in respective first and second slits by a compression
4 fit in each of the slits.

1 18. The one or more attachment elements of claim 17, wherein:

2 a material of the attachment element proximate the slits is work hardened; and

3 each of the attachment elements has a strength greater than or equal to a strength of an
4 attachment element without slits.

1 19. A barbed tape product, comprising:

2 a strand of the product in the form of a continuous helical coil;

3 a first attachment configuration including at least a first attachment point on the strand;

4 a second attachment configuration including at least a second attachment point on the
5 strand;

6 wherein the first and second configurations corresponds to respective first and second
7 lengths of the strand that each extend through an arc of approximately 360 degrees or more and

1 wherein the first attachment point is circumferentially offset relative to all second attachment
2 points including the second attachment point.

1 20. The barbed tape product of claim 19, further comprising:
2 a first attachment at the first attachment point;
3 a second attachment at the second attachment point;
4 wherein the first and second attachments attach the first length to the second length of
5 the strand and the first and second lengths form adjacent first and second loops of the strand
6 corresponding to respective first and second adjacent cycles.

7 22. The barbed tape product of claim 19, wherein:
8 the first attachment configuration comprises a plurality of first attachment points
9 including the first attachment point;
10 the second attachment configuration comprises a plurality of second attachment points
11 including the second attachment point;
12 wherein each of the plurality of first attachment points are circumferentially offset
13 relative to each of the plurality of second attachment points.

1 21. The barbed tape product of claim 21, further comprising:
2 a plurality of first attachments at the plurality of first attachment points; and
3 a plurality of second attachments at the plurality of second attachment points.

1 22. The barbed tape product of claim 22, wherein the plurality of first attachments and the
2 plurality of second attachments attach first and second pairs of loops comprising
3 adjacent lengths of the strand together, wherein the first and second pairs of loops
4 correspond to respective first and second adjacent cycles in a helically progressive
5 pattern forming a barbed tape concertina product.

1 23. The barbed tape product of claim 22, wherein the plurality of first attachments and the
2 plurality of second attachments attach first and second adjacent lengths comprising
3 adjacent first and second loops of the strand together, wherein the first and second
4 lengths correspond to respective first and second adjacent cycles in a helically
5 progressive pattern forming a barbed tape product.

* * * *

**BARBED TAPE PRODUCT WITH A PREDETERMINED PATTERN OF
ATTACHMENT POINTS AND ATTACHMENT ELEMENTS**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A barbed tape product as adjacent pairs of loops in which the loops of a pair are
5 attached to each other at an attachment point that is circumferentially offset relative to an
attachment point of the adjacent pair of loops. Additional attachment points may be provided
in helically progressive positions between the first and second attachment points. The
attachment points are positioned on one pair of loops so that each of the attachment points are
circumferentially offset relative to all other attachment points on an adjacent pair of loops. The
10 attachment points may be positioned in a predetermined helically progressive pattern on a coil
of the product. The pattern may provide a predetermined natural configuration of the product
when the product is in a deployed state of use. Attachment elements for attaching strands of
the product together are sized and configured for strength and accuracy in automatically
attached concertina or other barbed tape products.

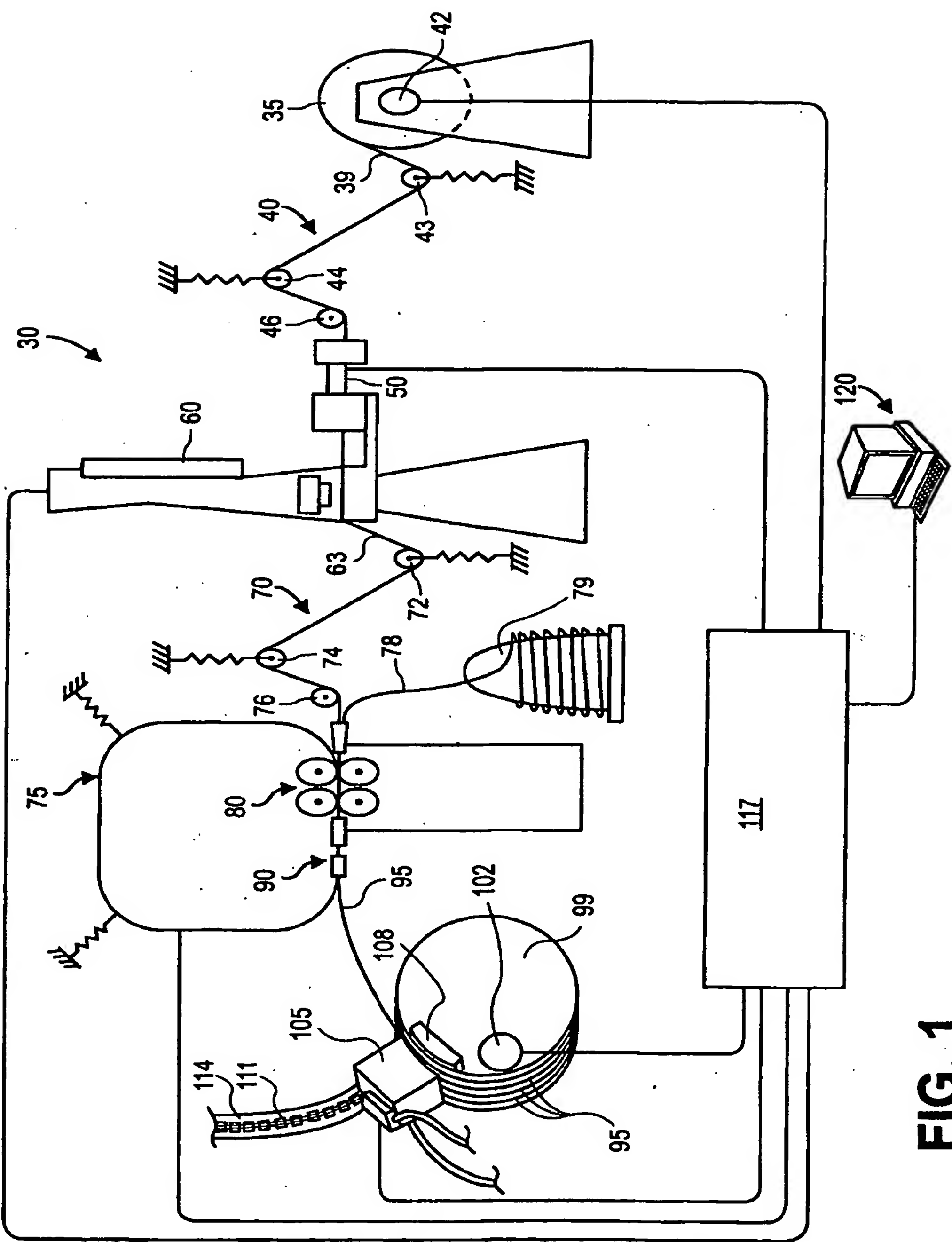


FIG. 1

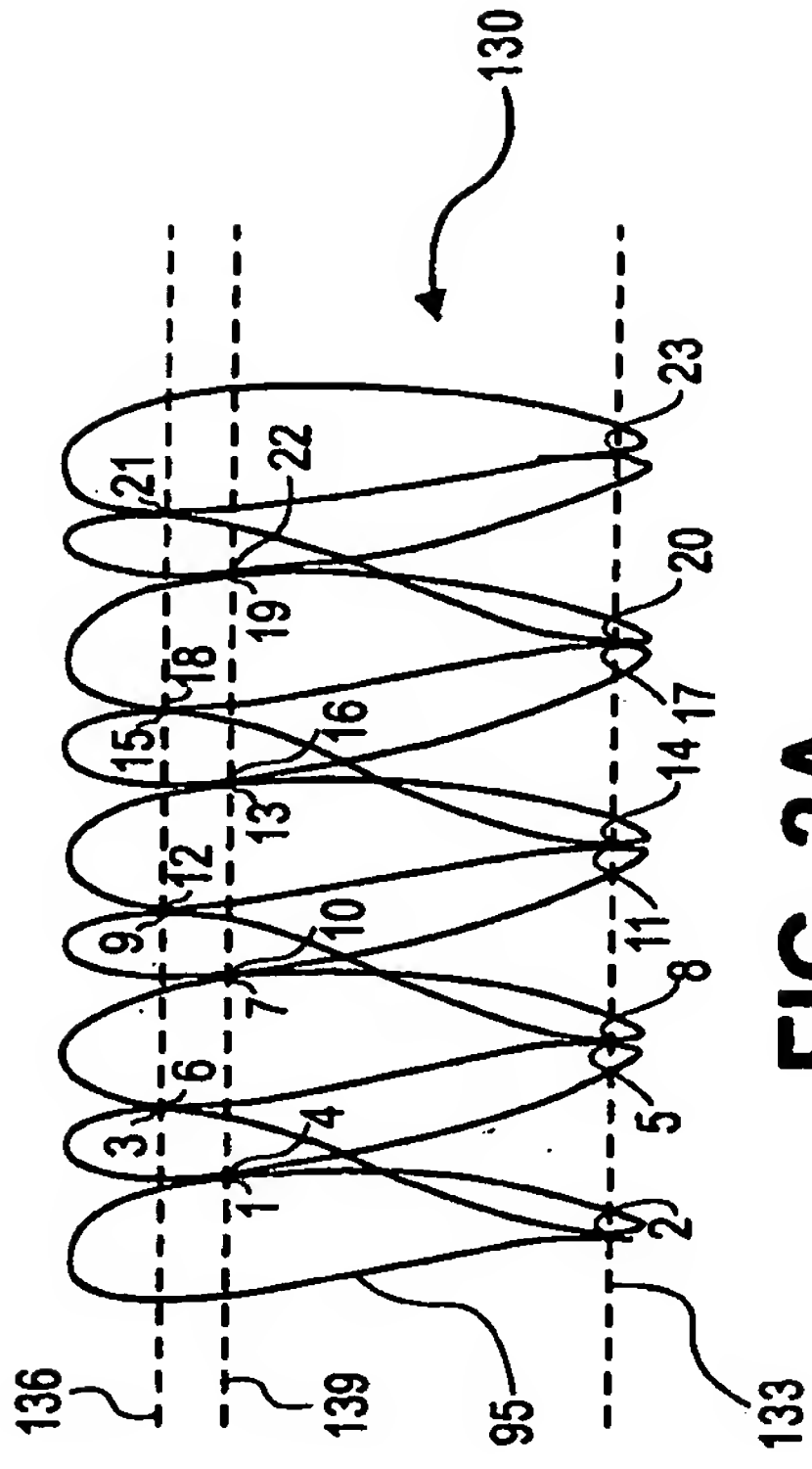


FIG. 2A

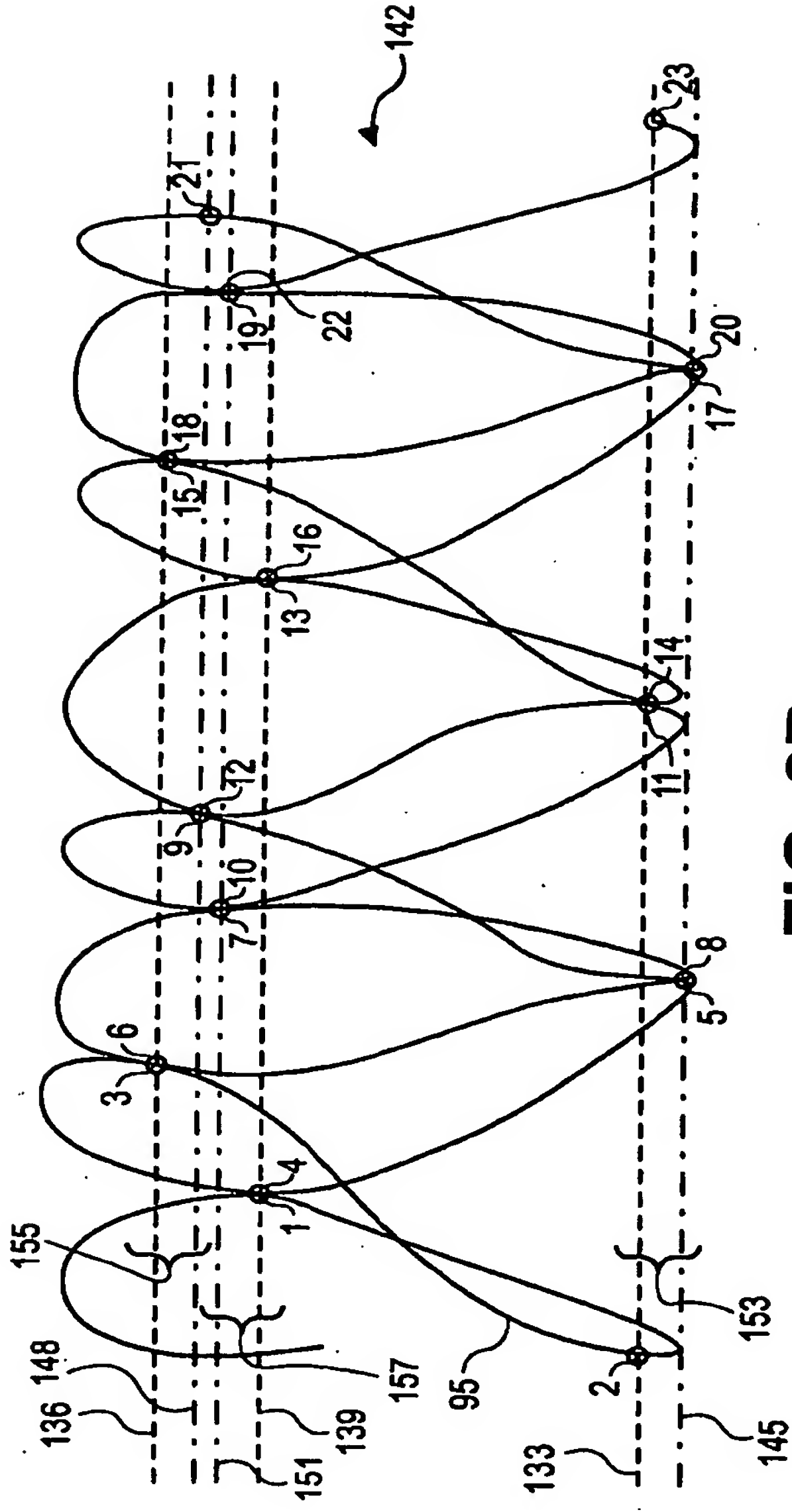


FIG. 2B

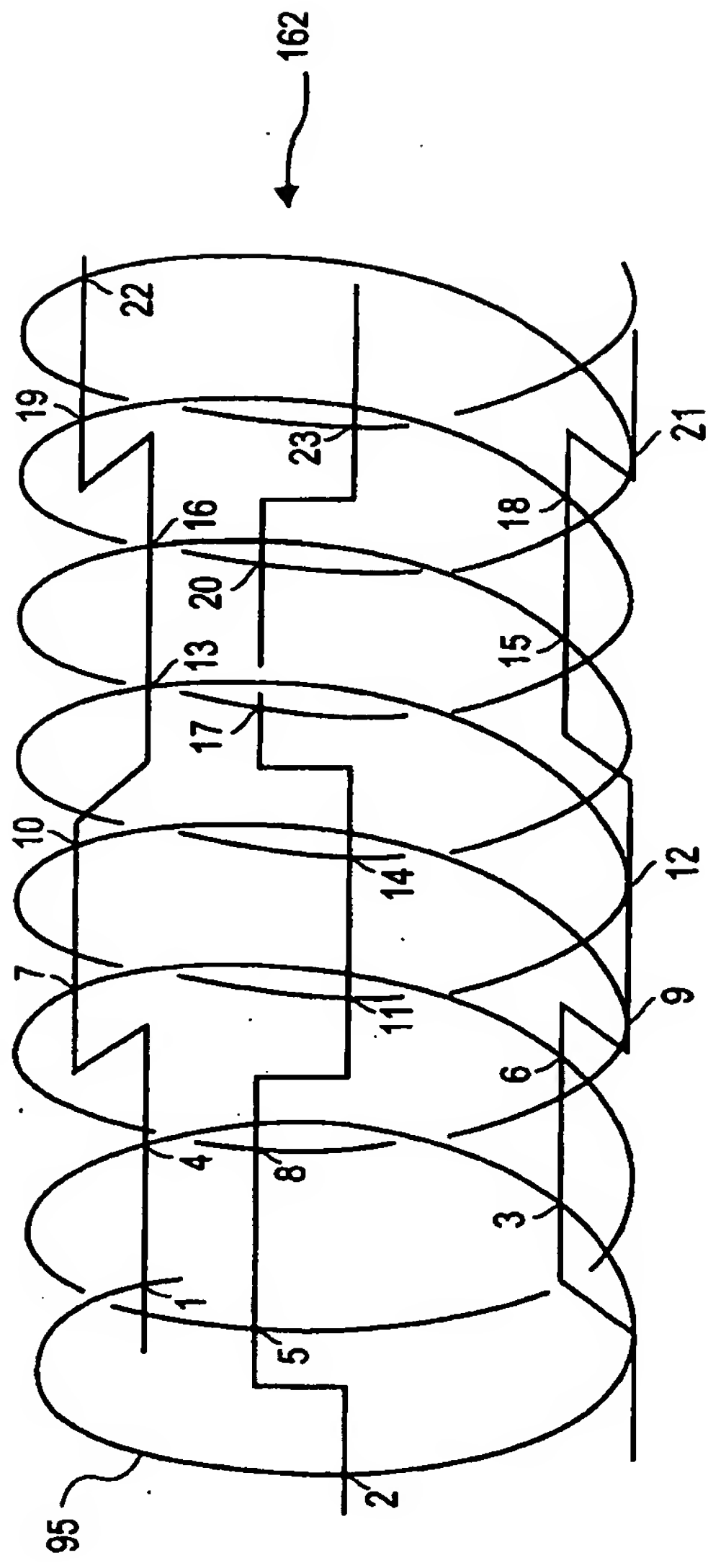


FIG. 3

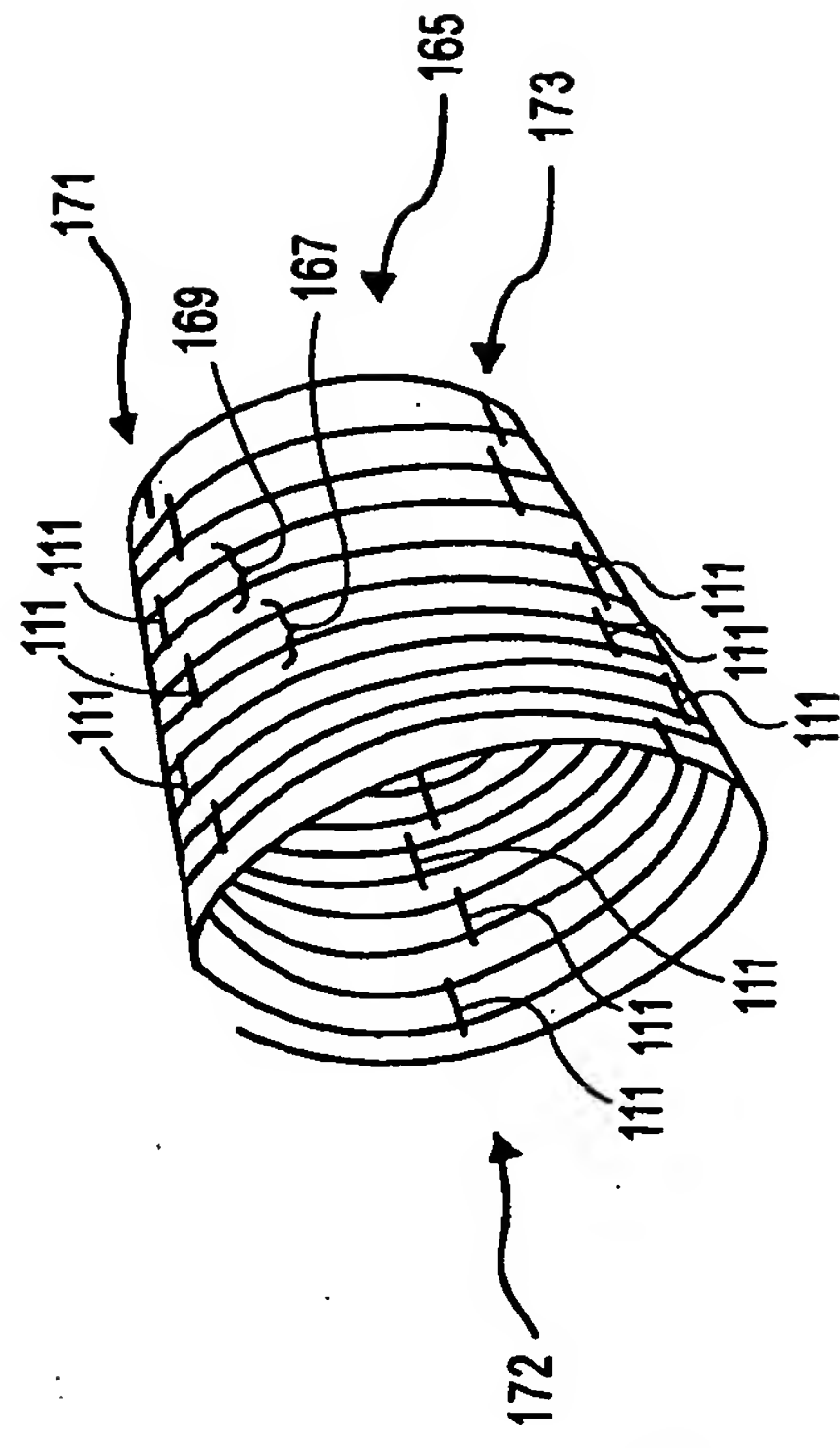


FIG. 4

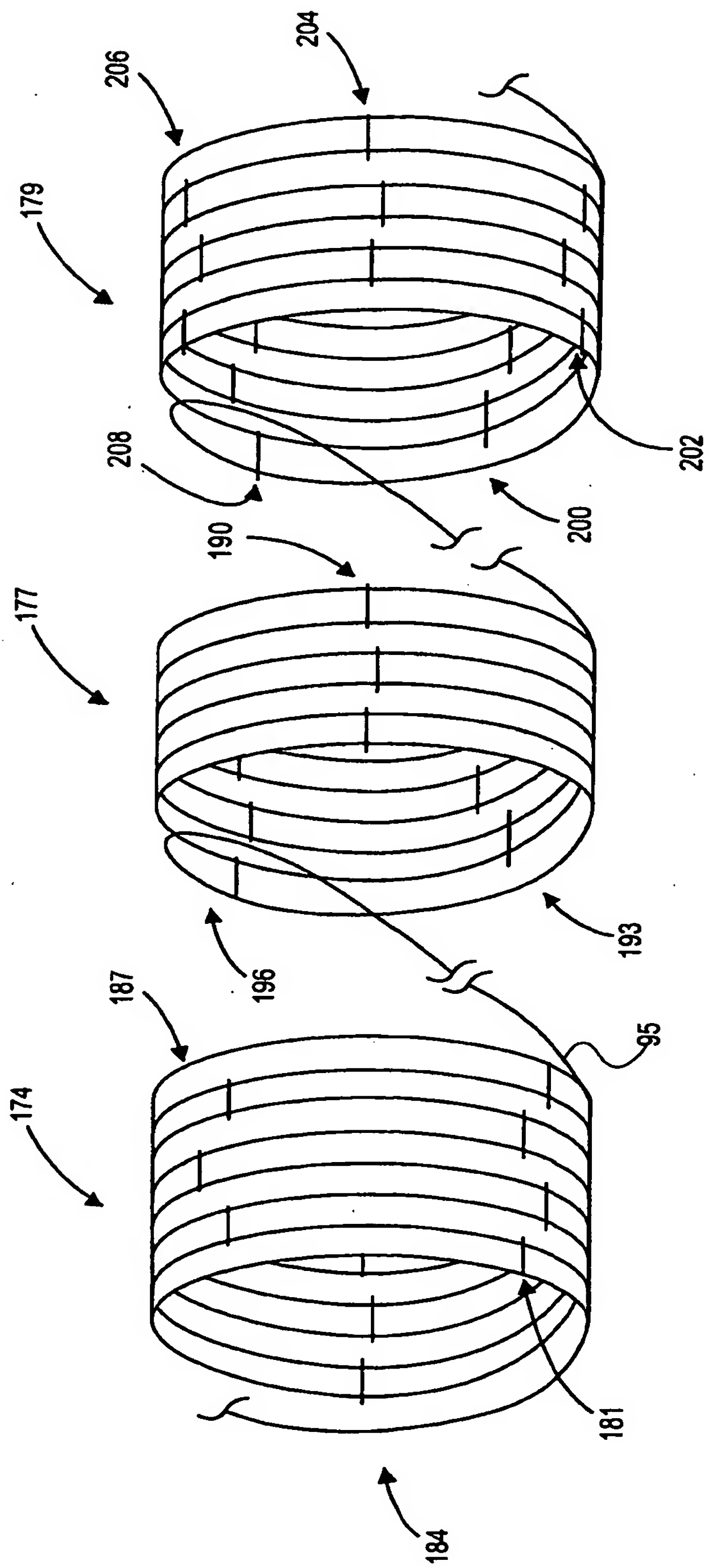


FIG. 5A

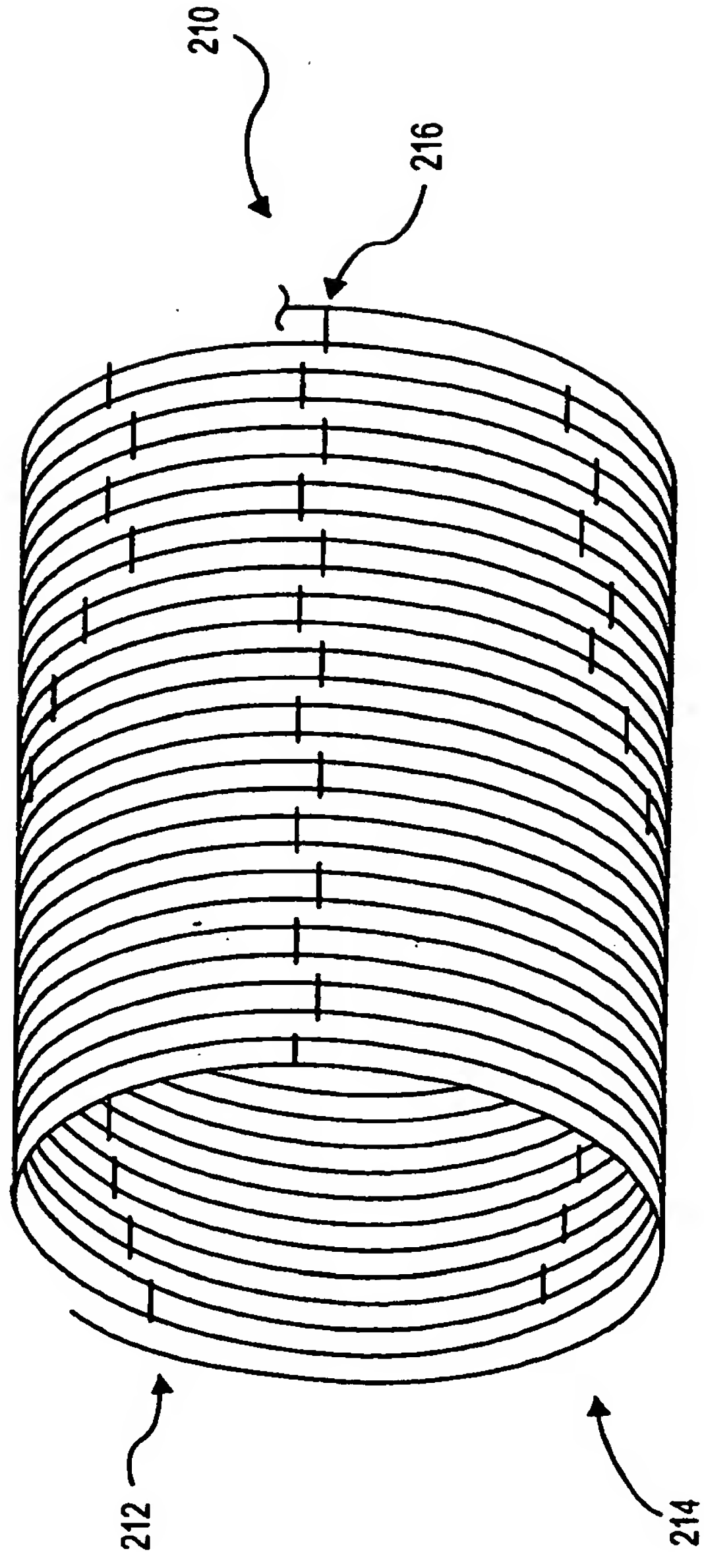


FIG. 5B

2
- 245

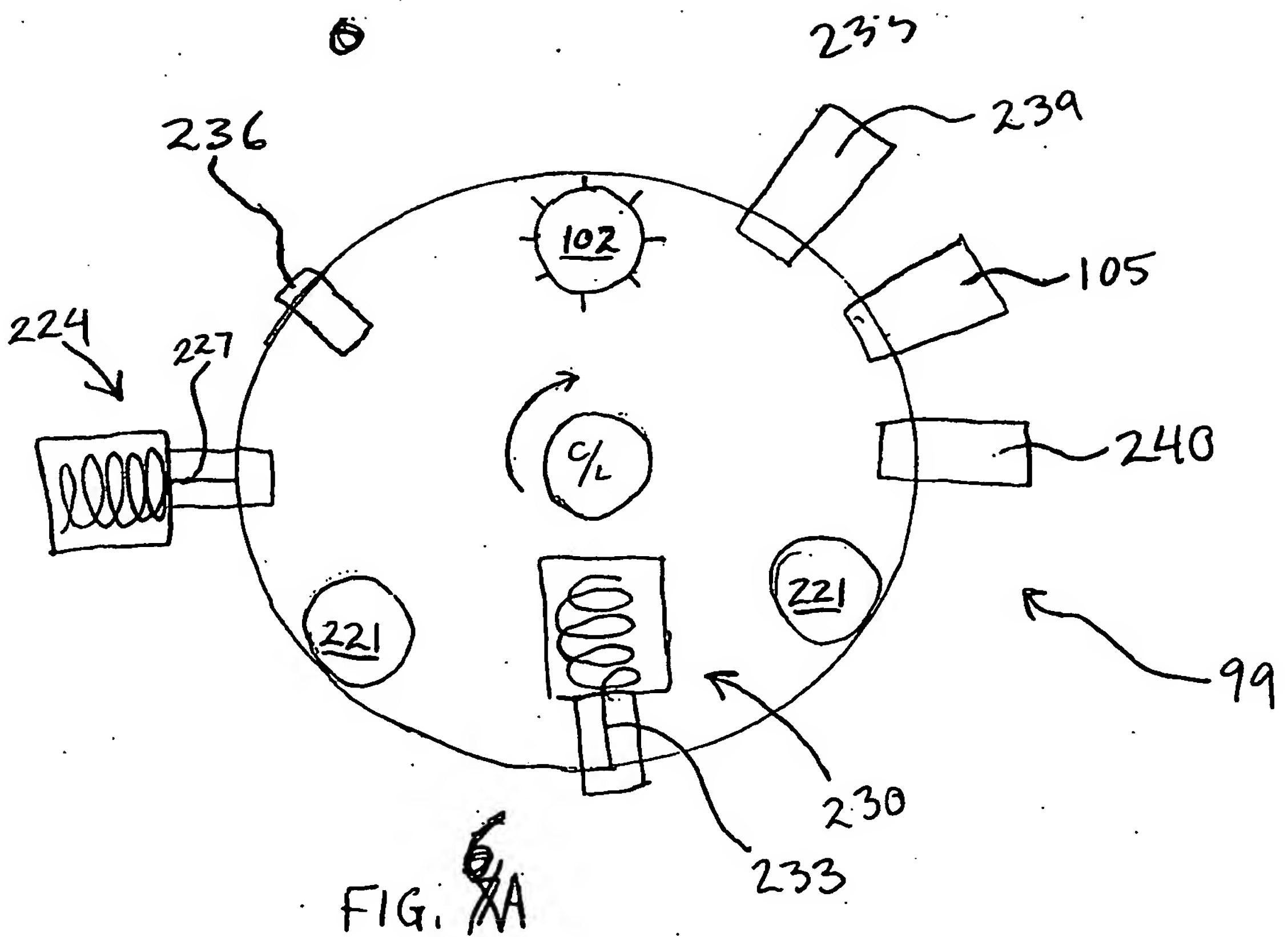
POSTAGE METER TAPES

USPS APPROVED PER

DMM

PARAGRAPHS

144.44 AND UU-T-1331A



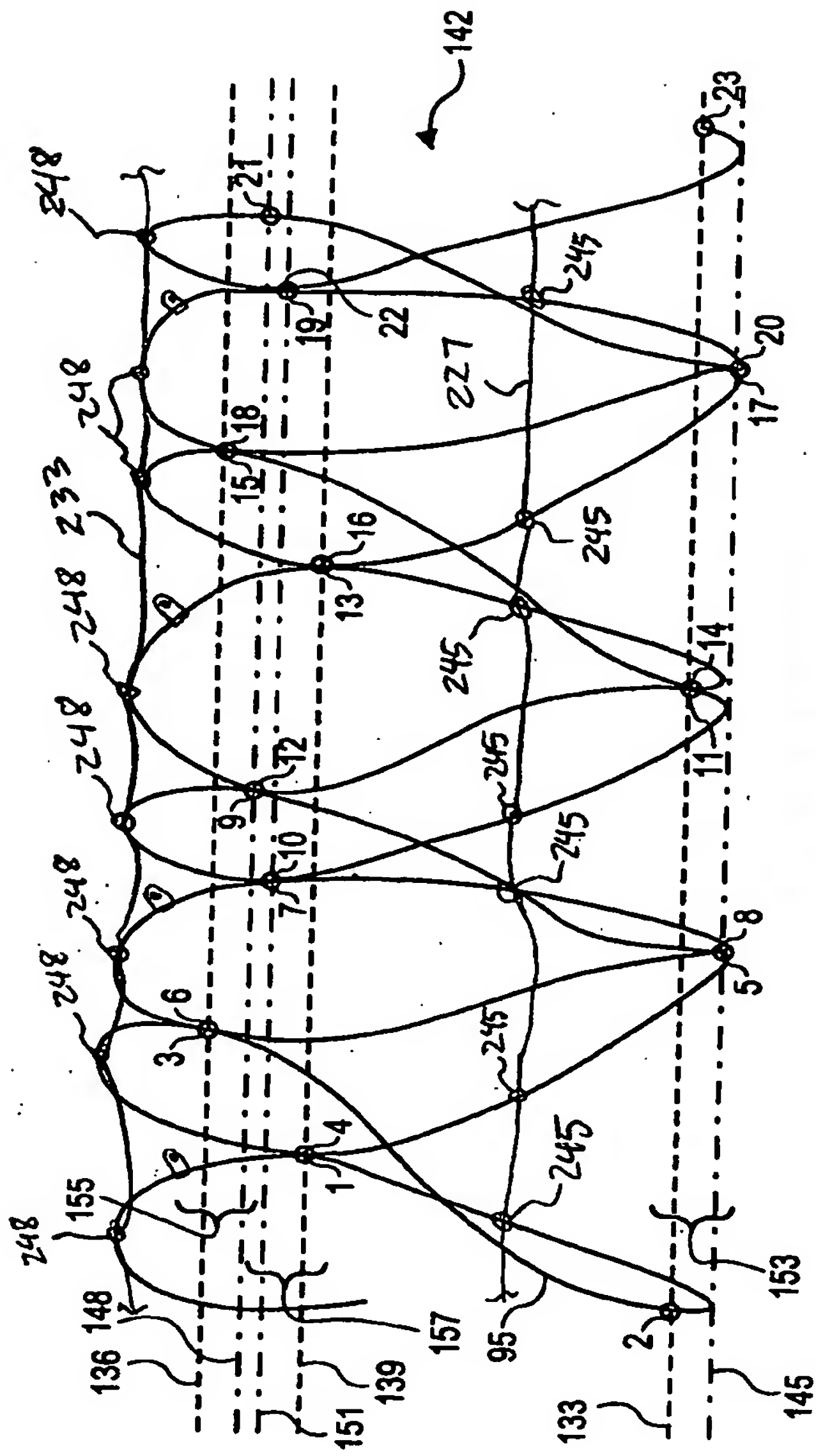
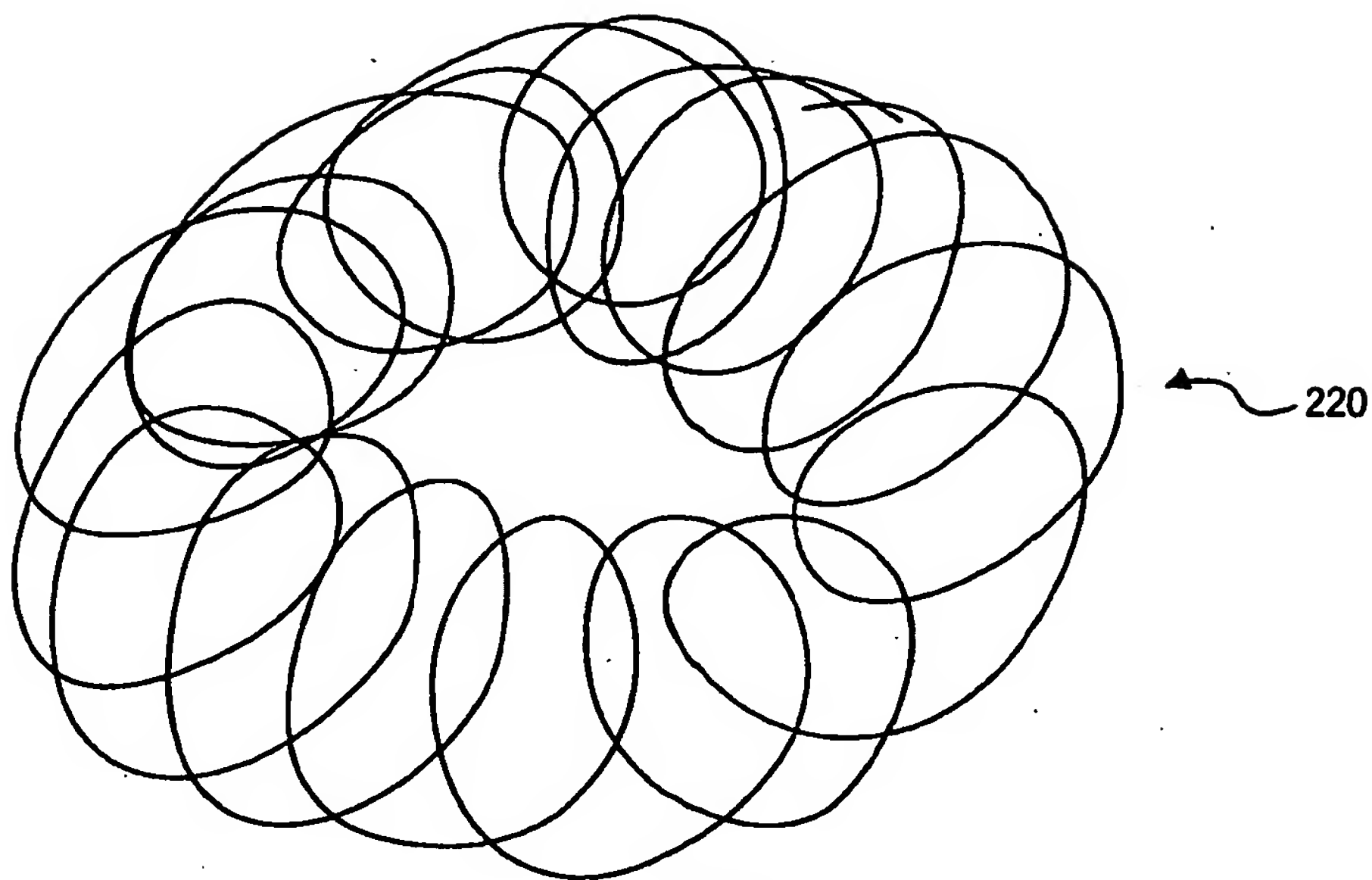
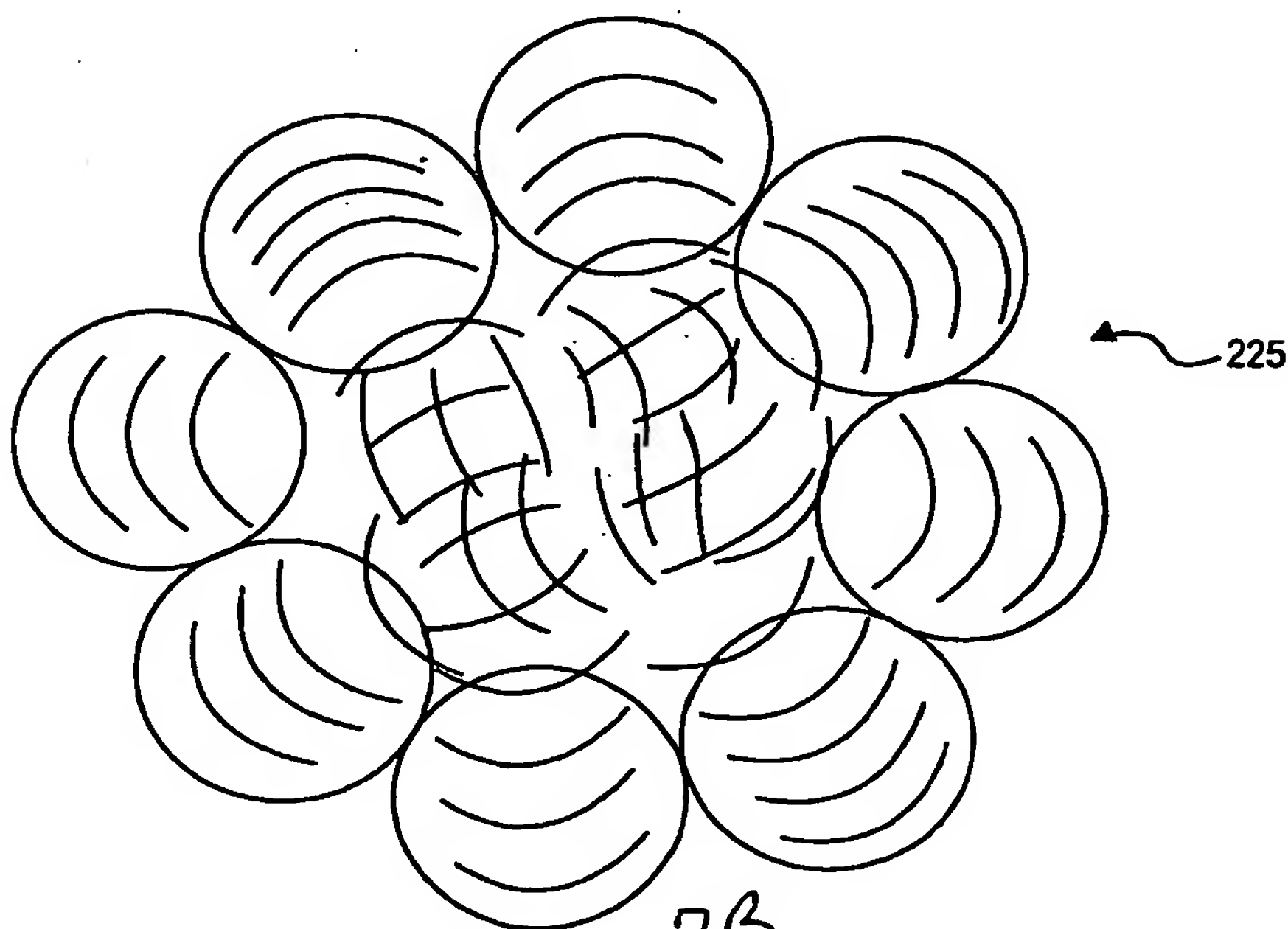


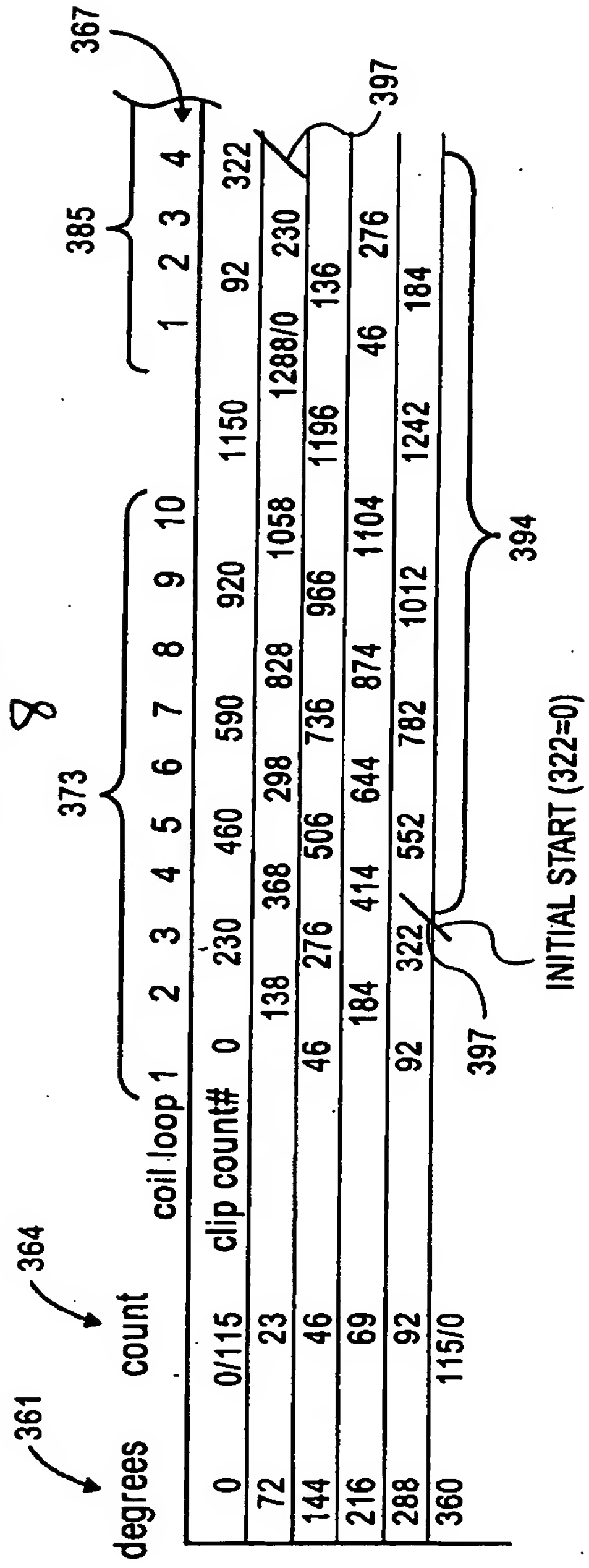
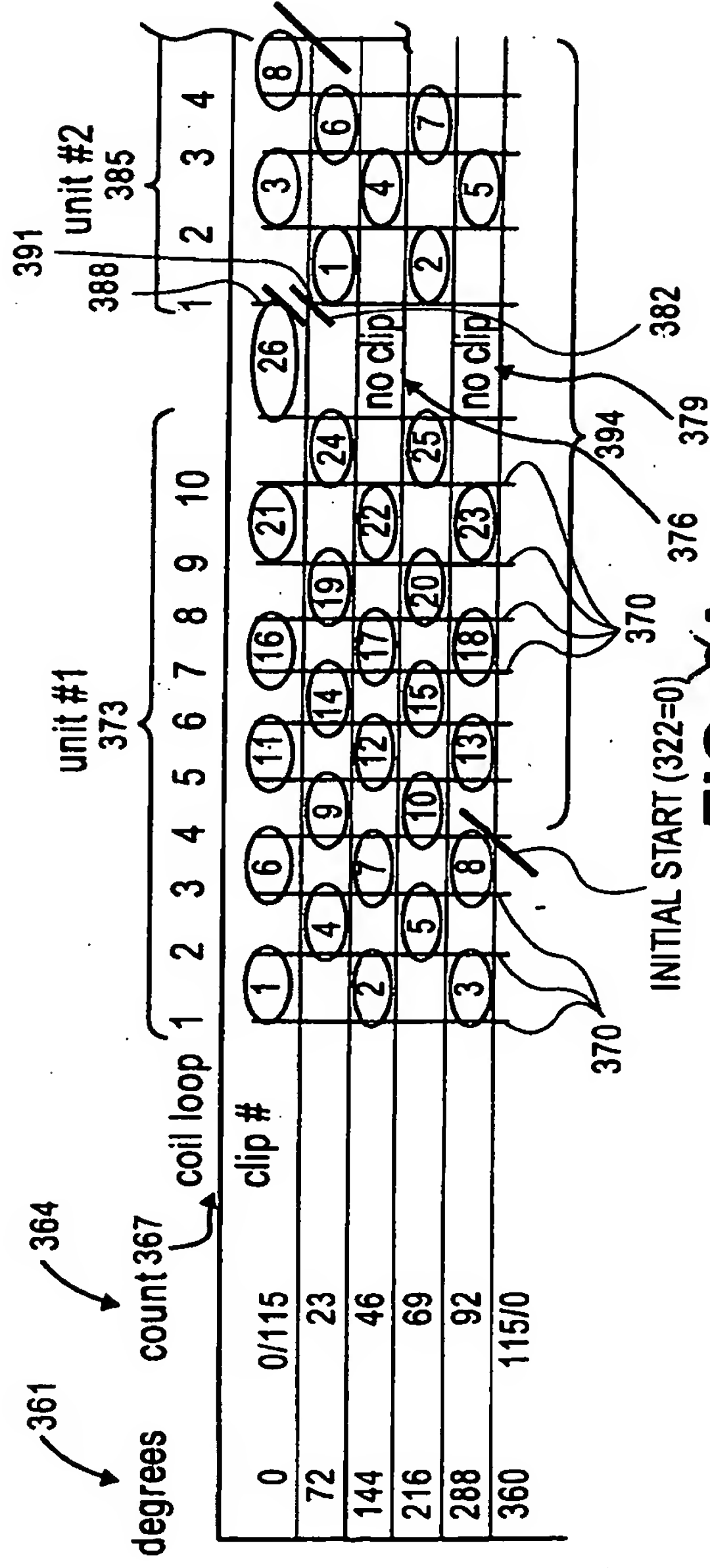
FIGURE 7B
6B



7A
FIG. 5C



7B
FIG. 5D



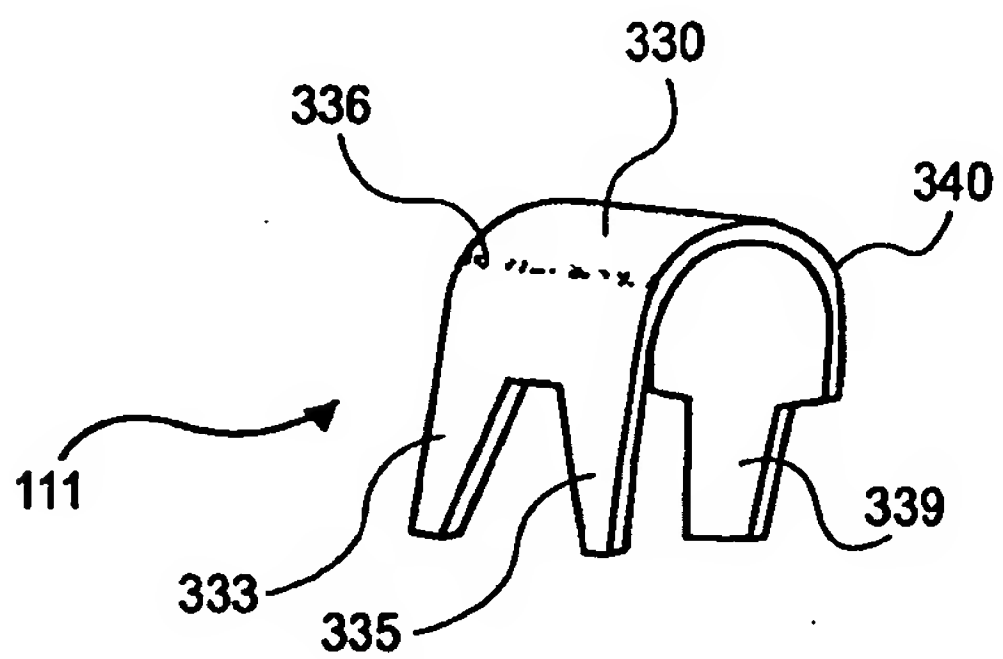


FIG. 7A

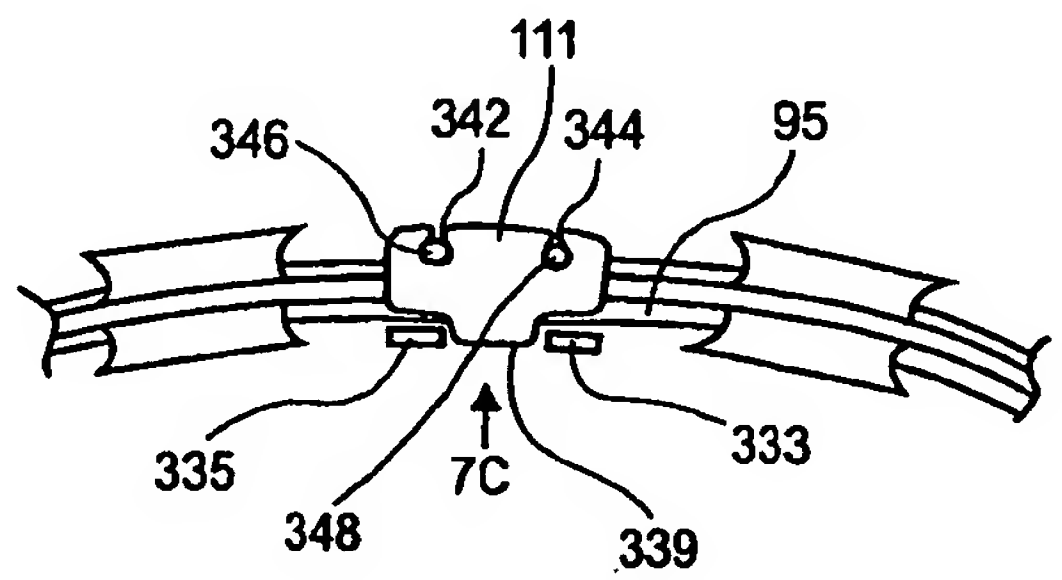


FIG. 7B

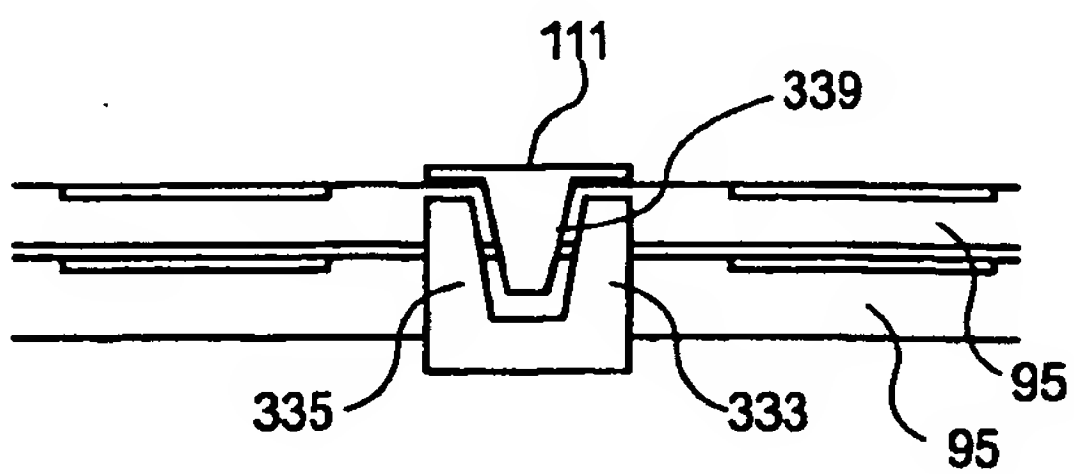
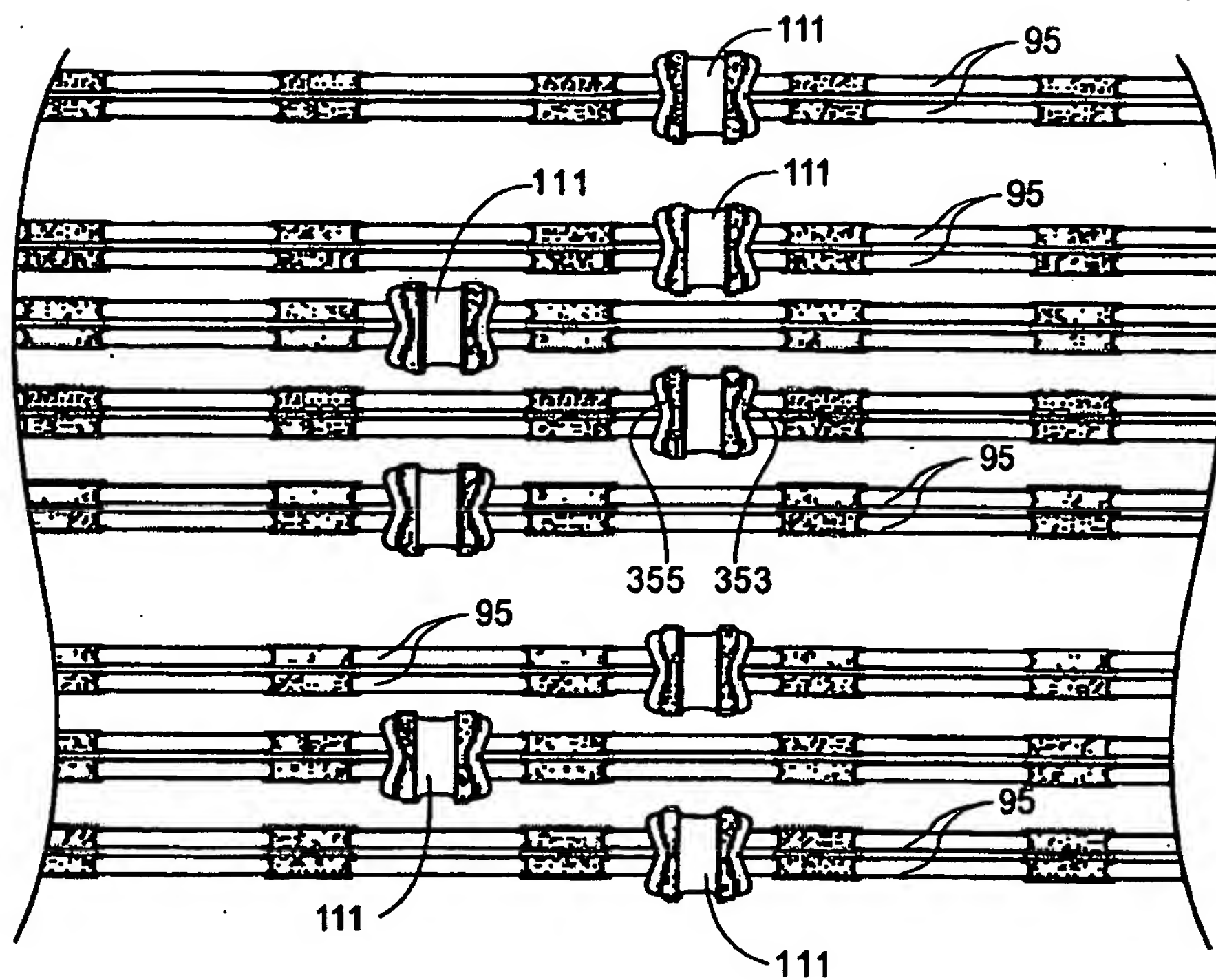


FIG. 7C



9
FIG. 9D

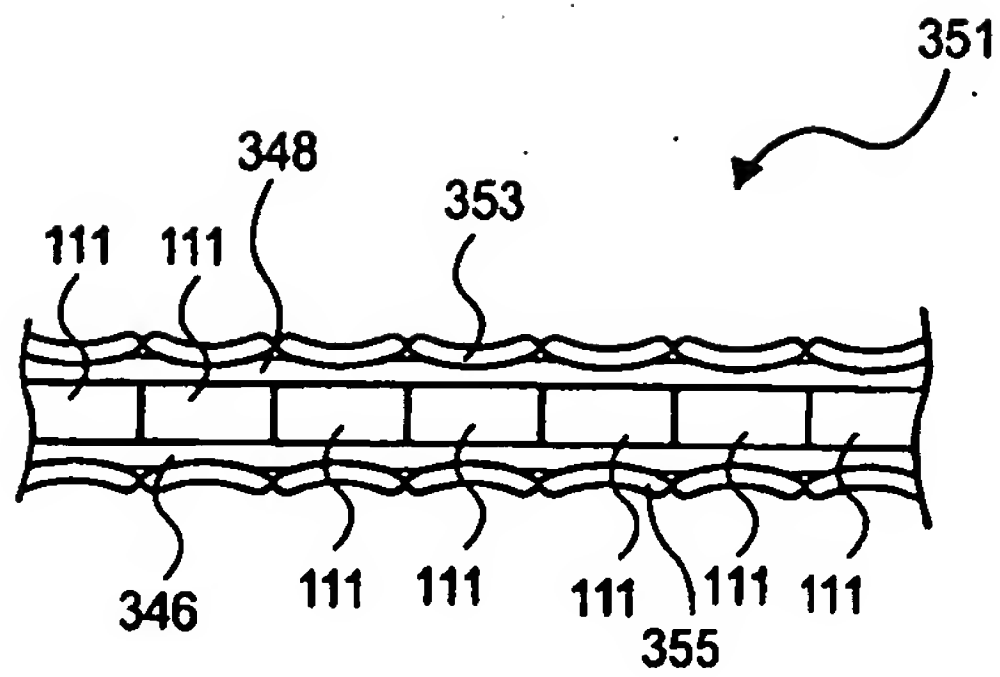


FIG. 9E

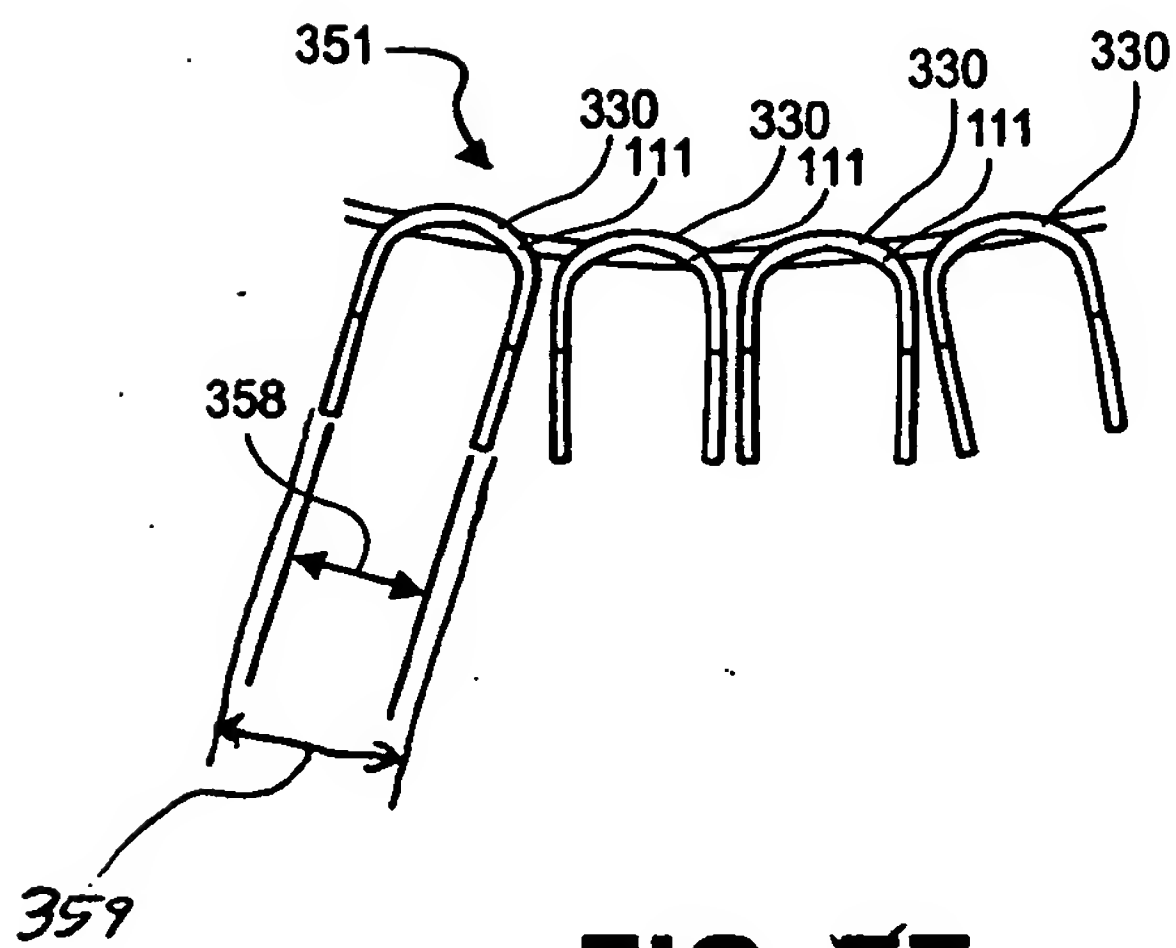


FIG. 9F